

Name: _____

1

1. Three particle types that make up soil are:

2. Match the correct definition:

Clay	tend to compact, preventing deep root penetration
Silt	drain well but lose nutrients quickly
Sandy	drain poorly and tend crust over blocking air and water

3. _____ is the best type of soil for vegetable gardens. It contains _____% sand
_____ % clay and _____ % silt.

4. Describe one method for estimating soil texture

Name: _____

2

5. How many climatic zones are there in North America? _____

6. What is hardiness?

7. Which is the coldest? _____ warmest? _____

8. When is the last spring frost? _____

9. When is the first fall frost? _____

10. What do these dates determine? _____

11. What are some of the first plants we might consider growing?

Plant	# of Weeks Before First Frost	Seed starting date

Name: _____

Seed Starting Journal

Seed Type	Plant name	# Weeks before last frost	Sowing date	Planting date	Notes
<i>Ex. herb</i>	<i>basil</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>March 14</i>	<i>May 8</i>	<i>6 to 8 hours of full sun daily Plant ¼" deep Thin when each has 2-3 leaves, 10-12 in apart</i>

Name: _____

[illegible]

Name: _____

5

Soil Structure

1. Soil structure refers to the way _____
and to the proportion of _____ and _____.
2. Healthy garden soil is roughly _____ (mineral particles
and organic matter) and _____ (occupied by water, air,
living creatures and plant roots)
3. Soil structure affects how easily _____
the soil, how well _____ through the soil,
and how available _____ are in the soil.
4. Maintaining a high level of _____ is essential for
good soil health.
5. What are some examples of organic matter?
6. What are four tests we can do to assess soil health?

Name: _____

6

Soil Tests

Sniff Test

1. Soil that contains lots of organic _____ is dark, has a slightly spongy feel and gives off _____
2. If the soil smells _____, it may indicate a pH problem.

Earthworm Survey

1. Earthworms are good _____ of soil health.
2. The number of earthworms present in 1 cubic foot of soil is a _____ measurement. Using this information to make conclusions about the health of the soil is a _____ measurement.
3. How many earthworms should be present at a minimum in good healthy soil? _____.
4. If there are less than 10 earthworms, we need to add _____ to the soil.

Name: _____

7

Soil Profile

1. To assess your soils general health and structure, find a spot in the garden and dig a trench _____ long, and _____ deep.
2. The top 4-6 inches of soil should be _____ and _____
3. _____ and other life should be evident.
4. Plant roots should penetrate _____ and spread freely.
5. _____ upper soil, stunted or horizontal roots, and an absence of living organisms indicate _____ soil.

Drainage Test

1. Soil's ability to _____ is important for plant growth. Too much water or too little water will reduce the health of the soil for plants.
2. To conduct a drainage test:
 - a. Dig a hole roughly _____ deep and _____ in diameter.
 - b. Fill the hole with water, let it drain, and then _____.
 - c. The liquid should percolate gradually but completely into the surrounding soil within _____.
3. If the soil is draining too quickly, we can add _____.

Name: _____

8

Soil pH

1. pH is a measure of _____ or _____.
2. The pH scale is from _____ to _____ and a pH of _____ is considered neutral.
3. Most cultivated plants need a pH of _____.
4. Plant _____ become available or unavailable according to pH.
5. Soil pH can be lowered by adding elemental _____. The best way to lower it is by adding _____ every season.
6. Soil pH can be raised by adding _____. Crushed eggshells or wood ashes can raise pH as well.