

Urban Prairies Project Soil Health Card

This Soil Health Card has been adopted from the NRCS Longmont, Colorado's Soil Health Card

Testing Location:

Testing Date:

Soil Health Monitors:

Soil Nitrate Levels:

Recent Weather:

Plot Number:

Plot Location:

Soil Texture (Based on Map):

Soil Texture (From Field Test):

Soil Temp (F):

Indicator	Observations	Rating	1 (Least Desired)	5	10 (Most Desired)
Infiltration			Water ponds. Excessive runoff. Takes long time to absorb	Water ponds for short period, some runoff.	No runoff or water ponds. Water easily absorbed by soil.
Soil Erosion			Evidence of rills and sheet erosion, pedestals and exposed roots	Some rills, few pedestals and exposed roots	No evidence of rills and sheet erosion. No of soil pedestals
Soil Cover			0-25% of surface covered	0-25% of surface covered	>75% of surface covered
Condition and Diversity			Poor plant growth. Plant color is light green to yellow, leaf tip burn present. Monoculture	Fair plant growth, medium green color. More than one species	Excellent growth, dark green. Diverse species present
pH			pH<5 (strongly acidic) or pH>8.5 (strongly alkaline)	pH 5-6 or pH 7.5-8.5	pH 5-6 or pH 7.5-8.5
Soil Smell			Swampy stagnant smell, smells like ammonia	Little or no smell	Fresh, deep earthy smell
Soil Structure			Powdery when dry, crust; platy structure or large hard clots, difficult to work, rupture resistance hard or very hard	Some granular structure and little platiness; minimal crust, rupture resistance moderately hard	Some granular structure and little platiness; minimal crust, rupture resistance moderately hard
Compaction			Cannot push wire flag into the soil. Roots grow laterally	Can push flag into soil with force. Flag only enters a few inches before hitting hard pan. Few roots grow through hard pan	Flag enters soil easily, can be pushed to depth greater than 12". Roots grow throughout
Soil Food Web			0-1 worms, no casts or holes, no insects observed	3 worms, few casts and/or worm holes, few insects observed	Over 6 worms, lots of casts and worm holes, multiple insects observed
Soil Surface Color			White, Light gray or red	Light Brown or Dark Gray	Dark Brown or Black