

Soils

Questions are based upon Leslie Allen's lecture **and** Chapter 5 of Retail Garden Center Manual.

1. What are five essential natural factors that influence soil formation/composition? (5pts)
2. What are the four components of soil? (4pts)
3. Healthy soil supports what three things? (3pts)
4. What are the three characteristics of soil? (3pts)
5. List the five different types of biological organisms found in soil and give an example for **at least** three. (Extra credit if you give examples for more). (8pts)

6. Ultimately, what do all of those soil biological organisms do? (3pts)

7. What are the three soil mineral components? (3pts)

8. What is an easy way to determine soil texture? (1pt)

9. Soil texture influences which two important factors to plant growth?(2pts)

10. What is cation exchange capacity (CEC)? (4pts)

11. What is soil porosity or pore space? (2pts)

12. Can you change soil texture? (2pts)

13. How is organic matter naturally added to soil? (2pts)

14. What are mycorrhizae? (2pts)

15. Name two benefits mycorrhizae give to soils and plants? (2pts)

16. Name four different shapes of soil structure. (4pts)

17. What does it mean for a soil to be saturated? (2pts)

18. Why is it important to know the pH of soil? (2pts)

19. What is soil compaction and how can you improve compacted soil? (4pts)

20. Name two benefits of mulching. (2pts)

21. What happens to clay soil when you add sand? (2pts)

22. How can you lower the pH of soil? (2pts)