

Selected Readings on Soils

Books

Find these books through online booksellers or ask for interlibrary loans through your local library.

Soil Science Simplified by Helmut Hohnke and DP Franzmeier

Essential Soil Science: A clear and concise introduction to soil science by MR Ashman and G Puri

Soils by William Dubbin

Building Soils for Better Crops by Fred Magdoff and Harold van Es

Reading the Rocks: The Autobiography of the Earth by Marcia Bjornerud

Dirt: The Ecstatic skin of the Earth by William Bryant Logan

Clay: The history and evolution of humankind's relationship with Earth's most primal element by Suzanne Staubach

The Secret Life of Dust: From the cosmos to the kitchen counter, the big consequences of little things by Hannah Holmes

The Earth Moved: On the remarkable achievements of earthworms by Amy Stewart

Life in the Soil: A guide for naturalists and gardeners by James B. Nardi

All Extension publications recommended here are downloadable at no cost.

OSU Extension Catalog | Oregon State University

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu>

Find these publications by going to the extension catalogue address above, then entering the EM or EC number into the search field.

These first four publications, from the soil health series, were written for a commercial grower audience. The first 4-6 pages discusses soil science and plant nutrition. The balance is on-farm case studies.

SOIL HEALTH

- EM 9251 **Soil Organic Matter as a Soil Health Indicator: Sampling, Testing and Interpretation** Published August 2019
- EM 9165 **Nutrient Management for Sustainable Vegetable Cropping Systems in Western Oregon** Published May 2017
- EM 9235 **OSU Organic Fertilizer & Cover Crop Calculator: Predicting Plant-available Nitrogen** Published May 2019
- EM 9221 **Soil Nitrate Testing for Willamette Valley Vegetable Production** Published January 2019

SOIL TESTING

- EM 8677 **Analytical Laboratories Serving Oregon** Revised June 2017
- EC 1478 **Soil Test Interpretation Guide** Revised July 2011
- EC 628 **A Guide to Collecting Soil Samples for Farms and Gardens** Revised October 2018
- EM 9217 **Interpreting Compost Analyses** Published October 2018

GARDEN SOIL - COMPOST MANAGEMENT

- EC 1616 **Reducing Lead Hazard in Gardens and Play Areas** Published October 2016
- EC 1616-S **Cómo evaluar y reducir el peligro del plomo en los huertos y jardines** Published January 2017
- EM 9053 **Agricultural Composting and Water Quality** Published June 2013
- EC 1561 **Improving Garden Soils with Organic Matter** Published May 2003

WSU Extension Publications

<http://pubs.cahnrs.wsu.edu/learn/>

Find these publications by entering the title in the search field on the website.

Understanding and Measuring Organic Matter in Soil

<https://pubs.extension.wsu.edu/understanding-and-measuring-organic-matter-in-soil>

Not for the faint of heart, this publication is heavy lifting but chock-full of recent research about soil organic matter.

- **Soil Fertility in Organic Systems: A Guide for Gardeners and Small Acreage Farmers**
<http://pubs.cahnrs.wsu.edu/publications/pubs/pnw646/>
- **A Home Gardener's Guide to Soils and Fertilizers (Home Garden Series)**
<https://pubs.extension.wsu.edu/a-home-gardeners-guide-to-soils-and-fertilizers-home-garden-series>
- **Backyard Composting** <https://pubs.extension.wsu.edu/backyard-composting>
- **Cover Crops for Home Gardens West of the Cascades (Home Garden Series)**
<https://pubs.extension.wsu.edu/cover-crops-for-home-gardens-west-of-the-cascades-home-garden-series>

Find many more publications of interest by googling WSU Home Garden Series.

What is Soil Health? An Interactive Exploration of Soil Health and How to Improve It from Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education google "SARE soil health on the farm."