

Chapter 2: SOILS and NUTRIENTS

(revised 11/2025)

Question		Answer
1. Soil texture refers to: a. How it feels as a result of different sized particles b. How wet it is c. How soft it is d. How deep the top soil is		
2. Clay soils have moderate to high nutrient holding capacity. a. True b. False		
3. Loam soils are desirable for plant growth. a. True b. False		
4. Rapidly drained soils lose nutrients and plants wilt sooner. a. True b. False		
5. Depth of soil means: a. Distance from topsoil to bedrock b. Distance from topsoil to where it gets dry c. Distance from surface to layer that retards root penetration d. Distance from surface to parent materials		
6. What is organic matter in the soil? a. Weathered rocks b. Plant and animal remains in various states of decomposition and the microorganisms c. Anything besides rocks d. All the nutrients		

<p>7. Increasing organic matter by 1-3% reduces erosion by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 1-3% b. 10% c. 15-20% d. 20-30% 		
<p>8. Which material is higher in nitrogen that makes it necessary to have a proper balance needed for rapid decomposition?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Grass clippings b. Leaves c. Straw d. Sawdust 		

<p>9. pH of soil measures the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Possible hydration level b. Acidity/alkalinity level c. Amount of fertilizer d. Amount of minerals in soil 		
<p>10. What is a complete fertilizer?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. One that contains all three of the macronutrients b. One that contains all the nutrients a plant needs c. One that contains carbon, nitrogen and urea d. One that contains macro and micro nutrients 		

<p>11. Which number in a 5-10-15 fertilizer represents the proportion of nitrogen?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 5 b. 10 c. 15 		
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