



Green Matters

Fort Gordon, Ga

Volume 4, Issue 4

April 2016

DPW Environmental Office and Natural Resource Division

WHAT'S THE "DIRT" ON DIRT?

I grow a garden every year and thoroughly enjoy it, but for the past several years it hasn't flourished as it once did. I always fertilize it with the same thing every year, so what is the deal! It dawned on me, "do I actually KNOW what my soil needs?". If I don't know what it is lacking, how can I know what it really needs to grow? You don't bake a cake without knowing exactly what the recipe calls for, that is, if you want it to come out right. Gardening begins with the condition of the soil. Not knowing what exact nutrients your soil needs can be wasteful, and any excess fertilizers can lead to pollution finding its way to the stormwater system. Having a soil sample done can give you the right proportions of what you need to add to it for a flourishing garden.



Have a soil sample taken. It's not expensive, about \$15 per sample and very simple to do. It's ideal to test in the fall to allow you time to make adjustments in the soil's nutrients, but testing can be done anytime.

What you will need:

1. A clean sharp spade or garden trowel
2. A clean plastic bucket or container
3. Some soil sample bags (re-sealable plastic bags)



Area divided according to vegetation & soil characteristics. Yellow dots indicate sampling points. (UGA extension brochure)

If you are just focusing on your garden spot, then you will take 8-12 samples mixed together per area. If you wanted to sample your entire landscape, then you would do a set of samples for just the lawn, a set for shrub borders, flowerbeds, fruit trees, etc.



Taking the sample:

1. Take a spade or trowel and dig a V-shaped hole 6 inches deep for each subsample.
2. Take a slice of dirt from one side of the hole from the top to the bottom of the hole.
3. Repeat this for all subsamples and then mix them all together in the bucket.
4. Remove any rocks, grass, and debris from dirt, break up dirt clods and mix well.
5. You have now created an average mixture for that area. Now scoop about 2 cups of it to submit as soil samples into the plastic bag.
6. Duplicate this process for every area you want sampled.



7. Label each bag for its location, and take the samples to your local extension office (for Richmond county contact UGA extension office <http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/richmond>)
8. Also let them know what you are planning on planting in that area.

You should get your results 7-10 days from the day you submitted your samples. Once you get your results back, you can contact your local University of Georgia Cooperative Extension office at 1-800-ASK-UGA1 for assistance in understanding the lab results.

It is recommended to have your vegetable garden sampled every 1-2 years. For more information on soil sampling visit <http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=C896#Steps>.

Inside this issue:

Stop It At The Door And Leave Contaminants Behind	2
Spring Is The Time To Eradicate Mosquitoes From Your Yard	3
Compliance Points To Ponder...Indoor Air Pollution on Post	4
Earth Week—Earth Faire Events	5

Training & Events:

- 28 Apr.- 3rd QTR Cross-Functional Team Meeting, 1300-1430, DPW Conf Rm Bldg 14600
- 10 May- Hazardous Materials/Waste Refresher, 0830:0945, Bldg 11307
- 11-12 May- Hazardous Materials/Waste Management Course, 0800-1600, Bldg 11307
- 12 May-SPCC Training, 0830-1200, Bldg 11307



And Leave Contaminants Behind

Controlling Indoor Air Pollution

Dust...I strongly dislike it. I loathe dusting. Mostly, the appearance of the grey film on my furniture really get's under my skin, but that really should be the last thing that I am concerned about. The real issue is what is **IN** that dust? What contaminants, unseen, are floating in that ominous grey mist?

According to University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, insect pieces, lead dust, insecticides, pollen, dust mites, animal dander, hair, human skin flakes, fungal spores, or cigarette ash can be present in household dust. The source of the impurities in your home, between 30 and 40 percent, are introduced from outside. Your shoes and clothing carry dust into your home as well as pets tracking pollutants in. Hence, the highest amount of dust can be found at the entrance, especially if it's carpeted.



Who's at Risk?

Children of course come into contact more with dust pollutants simply because they are more prone to be crawling around on the floors and putting their hands to their mouths. Others at risk would be anyone with asthma or other respiratory problems or those with weak immune systems.

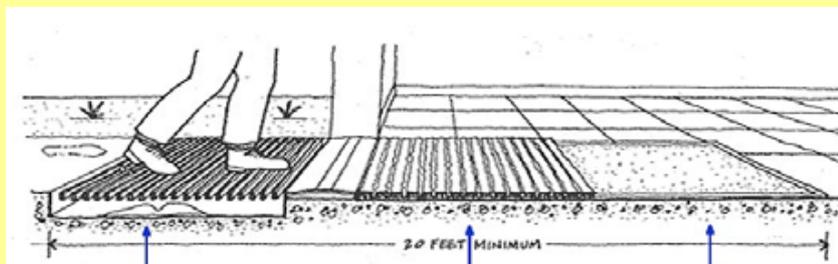
What you can do to reduce the transfer of contaminants from outside the home:

Eighty-five percent of the outdoor pollutants found inside your home get there by taking the first four steps over the threshold. Let's take a few more steps to reduce the transfer of outdoor pollutants into the home, to improving your health and cutting down on the time spent cleaning.

- ◆ Place doormats near outside doors and at the entryway from the garage to the house.
- ◆ EPA suggests setting up a doorway procedure that captures pollutants from outside (soil, moisture, etc.) at the point of entry. A hard surface walk way such as a sidewalk with a grated mat for the outside entry and just inside the door place a highly porous door mat that can trap dirt and moisture.
- ◆ Remove your shoes at the door. This prevents unnecessary tracking of debris onto floors, and carpets unfortunately act as a doormat throughout your home.



Every step taken to prevent the transfer of outdoor pollutants into our homes, is a step in the right direction for a healthier family and home.



Grate like mat (8')

Absorption mat (6')

Finishing mat (8')

Photo Source: <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schooldesign/controlling.html#Entry%20Mat%20Barriers>

Spring is the Time to Eradicate Mosquitos from Your Yard

As much as I love the spring, there is one downside that I don't look forward to...pesky mosquitoes. They can ruin a perfect Sunday afternoon picnic or fishing trip.

Every year entomologist and public health administrators encourage Georgia residents to be proactive in keeping the mosquito population down by eradicating any habitats for them in your yards.

With the Zika virus on the loose—a mosquito-borne virus now rampant in areas of South America—and the remote chance of an outbreak in the southeastern US has officials amplifying their message from the roof tops.

"Mosquitos aren't active in Georgia yet, but it's not too soon to start eliminating containers that collect water and getting into the habit of dumping them out," stated Eric Jens, a risk communicator with the Georgia Department of Public Health.

Though the risk is minimal of a huge outbreak of Zika here, these actions can still further scale down the mosquito population in Georgia that we already deal with by implementing simple mosquito control practices. Removing any standing water in your yard and pruning back vegetation will lessen populations of pest mosquitos this summertime along with disease-spreading ones as well. The result will be a more enjoyable outdoor experience.

"I would advise caution. People need to be aware that standing water produces mosquitos and that mosquitos can transmit diseases that are preventable," stated Elmer Gray, entomologist for University of Georgia Co-op Extension. "Everyone needs to work to eliminate standing water, make sure their screens are intact this spring, use Environmental Protection Agency-approved mosquito repellants according to their directions, and wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothes to minimize exposure."

I'd rather be safe than sorry.

According to Gray, there is a small population of the mosquito-*Aedes aegypti*- that carries the Zika virus in Columbus, Georgia and Savannah, Georgia. There is a very low number of travel related cases as well, which makes the chances for a large scale outbreak minimal. Removing larval habitats is the key factor to diminishing populations and cannot be emphasized enough.



Make sure after rainfall to empty in containers of standing water. "You need to be diligent about getting outside and dumping all of those containers out because that's the biggest source of habitats around our homes", Gray stated. "Here in Georgia, our biggest mosquito problems are the ones we grow ourselves." Containers such as empty planters and flowerpot saucers, buckets, toys, and anything that can hold water. If you have a water fountain that is NOT running make sure you empty it as well. But if you have certain landscape features that hold water on a regular basis larvicidal briquettes can be

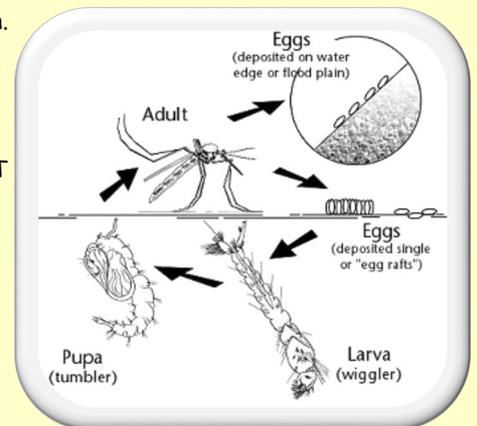
obtained to treat the water for prevention.

Replace any damaged screen doors or windows to keep mosquitos out. Gray said one of the most important things that you can do to prevent mosquito bites is to wear insect repellent when you're in an area susceptible to mosquitos. Gray recommends using products with DEET in it because it has been tested safe for kids under 2 months old. Never apply repellent directly to a child's hands to prevent ingestion.

For more information about mosquito control go to extension.uga.edu/publications and the Georgia Department of Health's website at dph.georgia.gov/zika-virus-faq.



Center for Disease Control



ELIMINATE COMMON
MOSQUITO HANGOUTS

US ARMY



DPW
15th Street
Building 14600

Phone: 706-791-2526
E-mail:
usarmy.gordon.imcom.mbx.dpw-
enrmo@mail.mil

Sources

<http://scliving.coop/home--garden/digging-up-answers-with-soil-samples/>

http://apps.caes.uga.edu/gafaces/?public=viewStory&pk_id=5764

http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%201070_1.PDF, *Leave it at the Door: A Guide to Reducing Contaminants in Your Home*. Revised by Pamela R. Turner, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Extension Housing Specialist UGA Cooperative Extension

Lowell Travis, DPW Energy Manager

Like us on Facebook
Fort Gordon Green
Matters

Indoor Air Pollution

Compliance Points To Ponder

What is Indoor Environmental Quality?

Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) encompasses the conditions inside a building—air quality, lighting, thermal conditions, ergonomics, acoustics—and their effects on occupants or residents. Strategies for addressing IEQ include those that protect human health, improve quality of life, and reduce stress and potential injuries. Better indoor environmental quality can enhance the lives of building occupants, increase the resale value of the building, and reduce liability for building owners.

Why is this important for buildings?

Since the personnel costs of salaries and benefits typically surpass operating costs of an office building, strategies that improve employees' health and productivity over the long run can have a large return on investment. IEQ goals often focus on providing stimulating and comfortable environments for occupants and minimizing the risk of building-related health problems.

To make our facilities a places where people feel good and perform well, the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) teams must balance selection of strategies that promote efficiency and conservation with those that address the needs of the occupants and promote well-being. Ideally, the chosen strategies do both: the solutions that conserve energy, water and materials also contribute to a great indoor experience.

What are common sources of indoor air contaminants?

- People smoking tobacco near building entrances or air uptakes for the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC)
- Building materials such as paints, coatings, adhesives, sealants, and furniture that may emit volatile organic compounds (VOCs), substances that vaporize at room temperature and can cause health problems (usually purchased by unit funds)
- Mold resulting from moisture in building materials (typically units with the ability to contract minor renovation to the facility) and doors/windows left wide open during the heating and cooling season

- Cleaning materials (purchased on the local economy)
- Pollutants from specific processes used in laboratories, hospitals, and motor pools
- Pollutants tracked in on occupants' shoes
- Occupants' respiration, which increases carbon dioxide levels and may introduce germs
- Garbage in open trash cans (typically food not eaten and pollutes the facility until the trash is removed)

What is the best way to prevent indoor pollutants?

The best way to prevent indoor pollutants is to eliminate or control them at the sources. The next line of defense is proper ventilation to remove any pollutants that do enter. Both approaches need to be considered at all phases of the building life cycle.

- Keep doors and windows closed, allows the Directorate of Public Works to properly condition the facilities air
- Moisture is very important (too much will cause growth of mold, not enough will spread germs)
- Food should be properly disposed; a rotting food will cause most occupants to open doors/windows in order to eliminate the smell but will allow unconditioned air into the facility.
- Look above and check to see the air registers blowing conditioned air is cleaned, if not, the filters need changing (call 791-5520 DPW service desk)
- Submit proper work orders on a DA Form 4283 to the Directorate of Public Works for a proper review
- Use green products to eliminate indoor pollutants



Celebrate Environmental Conservation
& Your Love of the Earth

Friday, April 22

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 23

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Soccer Complex on Barton Field at 19th Street

Open to the Public

Educational Displays & Recyclable Art

- **Bird of Prey Demonstration**
Saturday • Starting at 10:30 a.m.
academics.georgiasouthern.edu/wildlife/animals/raptors/
- **Fort Gordon Recycling Programs present: Upcycle ART**
fortgordon.com/programs/community/recycling/fort-gordon-recycling/
- **Library Storybook Walk**
- **CYSS Pancake Breakfast**
MOMC "Their Journey and Adventure"
Gordon's Conference & Catering
Saturday, 23 April from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- **Environmental Division**
Displays on Fort Gordon's wild life and natural resources
- **Earth Faire 5k & 3k**
Saturday • Starting at 9:00 a.m.



For more information:

706-791-9483

fortgordon.com



2016 EARTH FAIRE

FREE FROM

RECYCLE

WATER

