

Technical Assistance for Community Gardens and Urban Agriculture

NRCS NJ Soils



Technical Assistance

Fruit and vegetables are an important source of nutrition and growing them locally can foster a sense of community and accomplishment. With the renewed interest in community gardening and urban agriculture, NRCS New Jersey is committed to helping communities and urban producers ensure soil safety, soil resilience and improve the quality of locally-produced fruits and vegetables. We work with landowners to help protect and conserve soil and water resources in urban and suburban areas, as well as the rural environment.

The Soils Staff provides free technical assistance to community gardens in New Jersey. Our soil assessment service can help you evaluate the soil condition to achieve successful outcomes for yourself and your community

X-Ray Fluorescence (pXRF Analysis)

Healthy and successful agricultural operations require suitable site and soil characteristics. Soils in urban areas often contain elevated concentrations of lead and other trace metals which can be hazardous to plants, animals, and humans.



The portable X-Ray Fluorescence (pXRF) soil screening can determine the concentration of lead and other trace metals on-site; the spatial variability and presence of any “hot spots,” and whether there is a need for consideration on a different use and/or management.

Electromagnetic Induction Scan

A general soil characterization can provide an overall evaluation of your soil conditions and identify potential problems. An electromagnetic induction scan can determine distribution of salt content or the presence of any large buried artifacts.



Other Soil Assessment

Several other soil assessment can be performed base on the customer needs to assess the soil for storm water management as flood control or reduction of surface runoff if the customer want to install a rain gardens to improve water infiltration and ground water recharge.

For more information contact Edwin Muñiz at edwin.muniz@usda.gov or 732-537-6062.

A soil assessment will help you discover...

Trace Metal Content

General Site & Soil Characterization

- Slope, aspect, surface stoniness
- Physical & chemical properties such as: texture, structure, consistency, depth to restrictive layer, depth to seasonal high water table, & soil pH

Soils information for Rain Gardens

- Penetration Resistance (compaction)
- Infiltration (water movement into soil)
- Saturated Hydraulic Conductivity (water movement through soil)



[New Jersey](#)

**Natural
 Resources
 Conservation
 Service**

nrcs.usda.gov/

