

Sustainable Soil Practices: Managing Soil Health on Your Site

September 7, 2017, 9am-4pm

University of Washington Botanic Gardens, Center for Urban Horticulture
3501 NE 41st St., Seattle, WA 98105

AGENDA

9:00-9:15 Welcome and Introduction

Jessica Farmer, Adult Education Supervisor, UW Botanic Gardens

9:15-10:30 How to Read Your Soil

David McDonald, Resource Conservation Planner, Seattle Public Utilities

This session will cover topics including soil texture, structure, and biology. Attendees will work in groups to analyze soil texture by feel and to conduct a simple jar test that can be performed on your work site.

10:30-10:45 BREAK

10:45-12:00 Demystifying Soil Chemistry

Roy Farrow, Maintenance Supervisor, UW Botanic Gardens

This session will help you understand soil chemistry and how it interacts with soil biology. We will include a discussion of how to read a soil test and participants will review lab test results for soil samples available at their tables.

12:00-12:45 LUNCH

12:45-2:15 Stormwater Requirements and Restoring Construction-impacted Soils

David McDonald, Resource Conservation Planner, Seattle Public Utilities

This talk will cover what you need to know about local stormwater requirements for managing soil and how to address soils impacted by recent (or historical) construction. Groups will get practice by developing a soil management plan for an example site.

2:15-2:30 BREAK

2:30-3:45 Mulch Matters

Christina Pfeiffer, Horticulture Consultant

An annual application of a course-textured organic mulch is one of the best things you can do to maintain good soil and healthy plants. But, not all mulches are created equal! This session will include a discussion of what makes good mulch, how to apply mulch properly, and what problems can result from various mulch materials. Participants will touch, feel, and evaluate a variety of available mulch materials.

3:45-4:00 Wrap-up discussion & closing remarks

*David McDonald, Resource Conservation Planner, Seattle Public Utilities, and
Jessica Farmer, Adult Education Supervisor, UW Botanic Gardens*