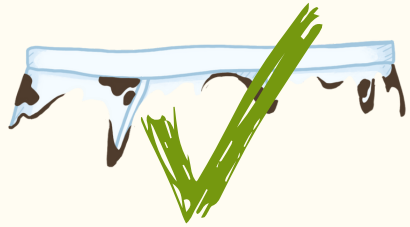


# Undie Interpretation Guide

## Very Soiled

Only the waist band remains



You have good soil. Keep doing what you're doing!



## Not Soiled

Much of the undies remain & are a little dirty looking.



The more intact your undies are, the poorer your soil is.

Let's get to work!

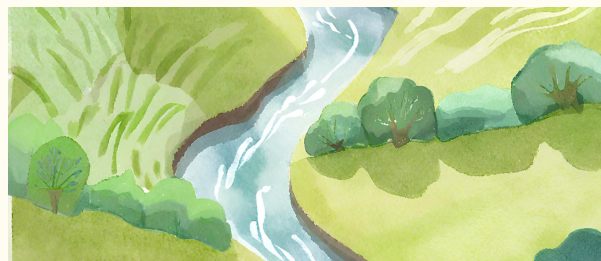


Soil and Water Conservation Districts, like us, were founded across the U.S. following the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. A drought combined with destructive & unsustainable farming practices stripped away the topsoil creating vast dust clouds that blanketed half of the country & left much of the farmland of the Great Plains unusable. Soil health is important.

Avoiding future ecological & humanitarian disasters like the Dust Bowl takes attention to our soil health & a little know-how from people like you!



ADVANCING SOIL AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY

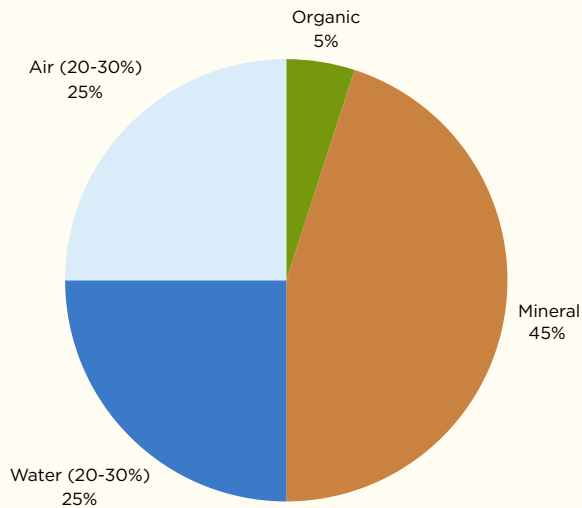


# You Soiled Your Undies... Now What?



# Ideal Soil Composition

by volume



Soil requires a healthy balance of several factors to be considered “good” soil. Mineral particles in the soil include sand, silts, & clay. Greater Cincinnati has clay soil, which can be difficult to grow in. Other factors also influence soil health. Here are some clues to look out for:

## Unhealthy Soil

## Healthy Soil

Compact soil	Soil with pockets of air & water
Native plants, fruits, & veggies struggle to grow	Native plants & crops thrive
Dull brown or grey color	Rich dark brown color
Requires fertilizer & intensive chemical management	Requires less fertilizer & chemical management

# Tips for Improving Your Soil

## Add Organic Matter

A solution to Cincinnati’s clay soil is to amend (or fix) it with compost. You can start a compost bin or pile in your yard or keep a worm bin under your kitchen sink to reuse food waste. Later, add the compost to your garden.

## Keep it Covered

Always have something planted in & covering your soil. Cover crops are plants that can be planted after harvest to prevent erosion & keep biological activity going in your soil all winter long.

## Plant Native Species

Native species are best adapted for our region & soil. Their deeper roots anchor soil, reduce compaction, & capture stormwater better than any lawn.

## Do Not Disturb

While compacted soil isn’t healthy, neither is tilling. Healthy soil & the organic matter within it naturally create pockets of air and water the soil needs. Less is always more when it comes to fertilizers, pesticides, & herbicides. Use it only as needed or not at all. Come fall, leave the leaves! Beneficial insects will thank you.



# Hamilton County Conservation District

The District provides free technical & educational services around soil & water conservation to all Hamilton County residents. Some additional soil & agricultural resources we provide are:

## Soil Testing

There is even more you can learn about your soil! We partner with PennState Extension to provide soil testing services to Hamilton County residents. Basic Soil Fertility Tests are \$10. Optimal soil tests are available for an additional fee. Visit our website for more information.

## Urban Agriculture

Urban agriculture includes traditional farming practices on a smaller scale, community or school gardens, & even pots on apartment balconies. Whether you’re experienced or brand new to agriculture, the District is here to help. From advice on more sustainable practices that protect local soil and water to help finding resources or applying for assistance programs, we are here to help make growing your own food more accessible no matter where you live.

## Environmental Education

The District has over 20 free educational programs that go into classrooms, libraries, & scout events. We introduce children & families to soil science & other natural resource conservation topics. Sign up for our programs on our website.