

Clemson Horticulture Student Essays

Soil Testing **By Ashley King**



According to Cook and Vanderzanden 2011, soil testing provides a snapshot of soil fertility at the time of the test as well as provides a picture of how fertilizer programs affect soil fertility over the years. The basic soil test generally provides the soil analyzer with information regarding organic matter content, soil pH, calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, and sodium. According to Dr. Dara Park, Clemson University Turfgrass Professor, If the soil analyzer continuously uses the same soil testing lab, their results will be more accurate due to the fact that the labs are testing the soil in the same manner each time. When I first took a soil test I did what any normal person would do; I took one sample from each field, filled up the soil bag, sent it off, and waited for the results. Little did I know that in order to receive accurate soil testing information, you are supposed to take the soil samples from various places in the field or landscape, mix them together, and then take one sample from that mixture. In the future, I will always use the correct measures needed when taking a soil test so that I can obtain the most accurate results.



<http://www.habershamga.com/soil.cfm>

References:

Cook, T., & Vanderzanden, A. M. (2011). *Sustainable landscape management*. (p. 29-30). Hoboken, New Jersey : John Wiley and Sons Inc.

Ashley King is an agricultural education major and horticulture minor at Clemson taking Dr. Vincent's HORT 308 Sustainable Landscape Garden Design class.

Visual Reflective Essay **By Doug White**



In reading "Rare and commonplace beauty" by R. Hester I learned the importance of looking for beauty beyond the common locations. Society connects social status with beauty because only the wealthy are able to afford many of the most extravagant things. Hester believes that the most beautiful areas, such as hilltops, marshes, or beaches should be accessible to all people.

This semester my architecture studio is working on a remodel of a park in Frogmore, SC in Beaufort County. During our site analysis we saw locals enjoying the shade of a shelter. One of the individuals came over to the group and was asking questions. I told her what we were doing and who we were and she was very excited. After learning about commonplace beauty I wish I would have asked her more about what she found in the landscape that pleased her or even better had her and her friends take me to the places that they most enjoyed.

In the future I won't let this kind of opportunity slip by. If presented with people that are going to be the main users of a place that I will be designing I will get their opinions of what "works" in the space. After learning what locals like about a space I can better design something that will be well received.

Example of a window of commonplace beauty.

<http://gallery.moshax.com/data/media/1/south-lake-howard-nature-park.jpg>

Doug White is an architecture major and horticulture minor at Clemson taking Dr. Vincent's HORT 308 Sustainable Landscape Garden Design class.

