

Soil Science Worksheet

1. _____ is the process of water soaking into the soil.
2. _____ is the downward movement of water in the soil profile.
3. If a soil allows water to move freely in the profile it is said to be _____.
4. Soil is made up of 45% _____, _____% organic matter, and 25% each _____ and _____.
5. The partially decomposed plants and animals in the soil make up the _____, which add to the _____ color of the soil and provide the nutrient _____.
6. _____ water is the water that flows through the soil, while _____ water is the water held in pore spaces against the pull of gravity, and _____ water surrounds each soil particle, but is unavailable to plants.
7. The ease with which the soil can be worked or broken up is called _____.
8. The parent material of most of the soils in central Illinois is _____ which was brought to the area by _____.
9. Soil that is deposited by moving water is called _____.
10. _____ is the biggest factor when looking at the fertility of the soil because that's what deposits the organic matter over thousands of years.
11. Central Illinois was mostly covered with _____ that deposited large amounts of organic matter in our soils.
12. In relation to age, the most fertile soils are _____.
13. Soil texture is determined by how much _____, _____, and _____ is in the soil.
14. _____ is the largest particle and allows for excessive drainage, _____ has the best water holding traits, and _____ is so fine that it restricts water flow.
15. If the structure of a soil profile is _____ is won't break apart at all and is as hard a concrete, but if the structure is _____ is will break into small granules easily.
16. One way to determine structure is the _____ method where a person pushes the soil between their finger and thumb, however, a more accurate test is the _____ where the soil is suspended in water and allowed to settle out.
17. Yellow and grey blotches in the soil indicate that the soil has excessive _____ and is not draining properly.
18. A non-agricultural use for soil is as a _____ to clean the water as it moves through the soil profile.
19. The three major nutrients that should be provided to plants by the soil are _____, _____, and _____.
20. Soil provides _____, anchorage, _____, air and _____ to the plants growing in it.
21. Two examples of life in the soil are _____ and earthworms.