

Soil health references

March 2023

Web Soil Survey link (best for computers):

<https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

Click on green WSS button after going to above site.

SoilWeb app (best for cell phones):

Point your phone camera at this QR code and then download the SoilWeb app.



Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District:

<https://tualatinswcd.org/>

NRCS soil health page:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/soils/soil-health>

OSU - Using Compost:

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/pub/em-9308>

Univ. Missouri – Making and Using Compost:

<https://extension.missouri.edu/publications/g6956>

Metro worm bin plans:

<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-living/yard-and-garden/composting/worm-composting>

Cover Crop Chart:

Go to this website and then download the chart to your computer.

<https://www.ars.usda.gov/plains-area/mandan-nd/ngprl/docs/cover-crop-chart/>

Soil science books:

Weil, R. and Brady, N. (several editions). The Nature and properties of soil. Pearson Education Ltd., Harlow, England. Commonly used textbook for undergraduate introductory soils courses. Look for older used (and cheaper) copies at Powell's.

<https://www.powells.com/book/-9780132279383/2-1>

Thorson, T. (2022). The soils of Oregon. Springer, Cham, Switzerland. Mostly technical description of soils across Oregon.

Available through Wash. Co. Comm. Library:

<https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S143C4115908>

Simard, S. (2021). Finding the mother tree. Alfred A. Knopf, NY. Fascinating account of the author's study of mycorrhizal fungi in Pacific Northwest Forests.

Available in print and audio through Wash. Co. Comm. Library:

<https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S143C3884019>

Nardi, J (2007). Life in the soil. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, IL. A wonderful book that delves that provides details about the great variety of soil organisms – written for gardeners and nature enthusiasts, with many lovely illustrations.

Available through Wash. Co. Comm. Library:

<https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S143C1206731>

Soil health (“how-to”) books:

Coleman, E. (2018). The new organic grower. Chelsea Green Publishing, White River Junction, VT. Written for small farms, but also applicable to gardeners.

Available through Wash. Co. Comm. Library:

<https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S143C3402662>

Strickler, D. (2021). The complete guide to restoring your soil. Storey Publishing, North Adams, MA. Probably aimed more at farmers than gardeners, but still useful to gardeners. Includes references to scientific papers and avoids philosophical bent of many soil health authors.

Available through Wash. Co. Comm. Library:

<https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S143C3940868>

Murphy, E (2015). Building soil. Cool Springs Press, Minneapolis, MN. Good guide aimed at gardeners. Oregon author.

Available through Wash. Co. Comm. Library:

<https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S143C2333413>

YouTube:

Worm composting with Dean and Dillon:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6DMCgJXMRuw>

Podcasts:

Life in the Soil. A fair amount of science, but quite understandable by all. This podcast avoids some of the philosophical biases you see on other podcasts about soil biology. Title of podcast is the same as the title of the Nardi book (above), but the book and podcast are not related.

<https://rilliglab.org/podcast/>