



Service Learning: Center of Excellence
Environmental Playground
Bio Blitz
Soil (dirt!) What's In It?

For this test Civic Nebraska will provide a Rapitest Soil Test Kit. You can use the test we provide or find an alternative of your own or use a combination. There are many to choose from.

The goals for this are:

- Students will practice sample collection
- Students will practice scientific testing
- Students will post results

You will need:

- Rapitest (or another)
- 1 cup measure
- Bottled or distilled water (4 cups per test)
- Container or bowl to mix water and soil for N, P, and K (a jar with a lid will allow for better mixing because you can shake it).

The soil that you test should come from somewhere around your school, but if you want to test other soil, please do. If there is any chance of rain for test day, get soil the day before so it is dry and easy to crumble. Clay is more difficult to test.

There are 4 tests. The pH test is easy and can be done in one sitting. For the other three tests, N, P, and K, there is a 30 min to 24 hour waiting period. Each of the color coded containers has water and soil fill lines and color coded capsules to activate the test.

The instructions that are included are good, but a little complicated. Smaller children will need help with the instructions and even older students would benefit from having an adult explain the process. But the physical steps are not difficult.

The Rapitest has enough materials for 10 of each test, so please feel free to repeat the testing, or test different areas or soils. It also includes information on how much specific plants need of each of the tested nutrients which could be a good extension.

You will receive a form to record your data.