



# Soil Health Test

Degraded



Healthy

<b>1. Surface Condition</b>	Light color Surface crusting No aggregation	Somewhat cloddy Balls up Difficult pulling plants	Dark color Well aggregated Crumbles easily
<b>2. Surface Residue</b>	Surface is bare Very little residue	Varying amounts of residue Little decay	Fully covered surface Residue shredded Varying stages of decay
<b>3. Compaction</b>	Difficult to probe or shovel Observe compacted layer	Observe compacted layer	Observe to compacted layer
<b>4. Water Infiltration</b>	Infiltration greater than 30 min	Infiltration time 10 to 30 min	Infiltration under 10 min
<b>5. Soil Stability</b>	Complete slaking after submerged for less than 1 minute	Soil clods slake to 50% or less of original size	Little to no slaking Soil clods remain 90% intact
<b>6. Soil Biology</b>	No earthworms or other organisms observed Residue shows no signs	Earthworm count is greater than 3 per cubic ft A few other organisms observed	Earthworm count is greater than 10 per cubic ft Evidence of earthworm huts
<b>7. Soil Temperature</b> (1-2" Depth)	Spring: 3° cooler than tilled field Summer: Temp exceeds 110°	Spring: Temp same as tilled field Summer: Temp between 95° -110°	Spring: Temp warmer than tilled Summer: Temp less than 95°
<b>8. Roots and Shoots</b>	Restricted growth Few fine roots Discolored and lesions	Evidence of root growth restriction Some fine roots but not many	Unrestricted root growth Lots of fine root hairs
<b>9. Color</b>	Moist top soil is dark gray or grayish brown	Moist top soil is very dark gray or very dark grayish brown	Moist top soil is black or very dark brown
<b>10. Smell</b>	Metallic or rotten eggs	No aroma	Earthy/sweet smell

Tip: Compare field to undisturbed area such as a field edge or road ditch.