



Soil Health Test

Degraded



Healthy

1. Surface Condition	Light color Surface crusting No aggregation	Somewhat cloddy Balls up Difficult pulling plants	Dark color Well aggregated Crumbles easily
2. Surface Residue	Surface is bare Very little residue	Varying amounts of residue Little decay	Fully covered surface Residue shredded Varying stages of decay
3. Compaction	Difficult to probe or shovel Observe compacted layer	Observe compacted layer	Observe to compacted layer
4. Water Infiltration	Infiltration greater than 30 min	Infiltration time 10 to 30 min	Infiltration under 10 min
5. Soil Stability	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
6. Soil Biology	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
7. Soil Temperature (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°
8. Roots and Shoots	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
9. Color	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
10. Smell	Metallic or rotten eggs	No aroma	Earthy/sweet smell

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