

Urban Soil Quality and Site Assessment Cards. (S06-faber075745-Poster)

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Abstract:

Soil Quality and Site Assessment Cards are field tools developed collaboratively by the local community, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and conservation partners. One card assesses the current status of soil quality in urban soils. If used repeatedly by a layperson over time, changes in soil quality affected by management choices may be revealed. These cards can be used in Connecticut or adapted for other urban areas. Soil and site indicators are assessed without the aid of technical or laboratory equipment. Indicators include compacted layers and abundance of earthworms for soil quality, and the amount of sun exposure for site assessment. The cards are tools to communicate with soil scientists and other environmental professionals about issues and problems relating to urban soils. The cards are intended for general evaluations of property and are not a substitute for detailed site investigations by professionals that may be needed to meet federal, state, and local regulations. Although designed for community garden use, the cards can also be used to rate sites and soil for other potential land uses. The end result is tailored management of soil for a given site.

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