

ANSWER KEY - Soil pH Measurement

Some reasons why the pH of soil is important to plant growth:

- 1) Soil pH affects the availability of soil constituents to plants and soil micro-organisms
- 2) pH determines the availability of soil nutrients to plants.
- 3) Plants do not grow well outside the range of 4.5 – 8
- 4) Plants preferring certain types of soil are often starved of important nutrients or damaged by unwanted minerals.
- 5) Acid loving plants growing in alkaline soils are often starved of important elements. (eg: iron and manganese)

Suggested Activities:

1. Use the online dictionary by typing the following in the 'Google' search engine;

define: pH

By typing the word 'define:' with a colon after and what ever word you are looking for, will display web sites that deal with the meaning of that particular word.

2. Discuss the meaning of pH of soil in more detail.
3. Are students able to identify a local pH of soil example?
4. Conduct a soil test of soil in an immediate flower garden, potting mix and soil that is used for growing vegetables and fruit.

Outcomes:

Science – the environment and condition of soil

Technology – conduct research using the Internet