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## Cornell Soil Health Tests?

Posted by [Josh Willis](#)

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[Josh Willis](#)

[Cornell Soil Health Tests?](#)

September 02, 2023 12:50AM

Registered: 6 years ago

Posts: 134

Just curious if anyone has used Cornell's soil health tests. They have some interesting "big idea" metrics, such as soil respiration, active carbon, soil protein index, that really seem to emphasize the biological, and other metrics such as "minor elements" that seem to gloss over the details of traditional law of minimums. It's intriguing, and it ain't cheap, at between \$120 and \$150 for the bells and whistles package.

Anyways, I'm curious if anyone has worked with them, and if so, what your experiences are, especially in comparison to some of the great outfits that a lot of growers here use.

Here's the link for their soil health manual, which gives you an idea of what they think is important, and some samples of their report, if you scroll through the manual.

[[www.css.cornell.edu](http://www.css.cornell.edu)]

I found their program via another program in the Mid-Atlantic that is offering free soil health testing packages, which I'll post in the Grower's Research forum.

Earthworks

Zone 7a in West-Central MD

Non-commercial, ~100 fruit trees, dwarf to MM106

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[Mike Biltonen](#)

[Re: Cornell Soil Health Tests?](#)

September 03, 2023 04:33PM

Registered: 11 years ago

Posts: 298

Hi Josh,

I used to use the Cornell SHT routinely but stopped primarily because they stopped doing the root bioassay test (developed by George Abawi) that gave an indication (though no specificity) about potential soil-borne root pathogens. Additionally, the lag time in reporting results and their glossing over other details such as microelements etc caused me to stop. I can do most of the other tests myself (though a bit more rudimentarily) - so what was the point? I do send samples to EarthFort where I get better detailed results and quicker turnaround, though still nothing to do with root pathogens.

Mike

[Mike Biltonen, Know Your Roots](#)

Zone 5b in New York

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