

Answers to Dirty Tricks Soil Workshop Quiz

1. There are 3-5 earthworms per shovelful of soil.
2. Yes, earthworms eat soil but mainly the organic components. The grit helps to grind up the organics for easier digestion. Then it is all excreted as worm castings in which the nutrients are broken down for plant use and concentrated.
3. The senses you will not use in testing soil are taste and hearing.
4. A pedologist is a soil scientist.
5. The number of living organisms in a teaspoon of soil is 1.5 times the number of people on Earth (which was about 7 billion in 2011). Hence there are about 10, 000,000,000 organisms in a teaspoon of soil.
6. Tilth, friable, humus, detritus, and peds are not 'dirty' words as they refer to soil, not dirt.
7. That 'old black magic' is compost.

Solution to Wordsearch

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P + T + R F R Y + Y + P N D S
+ H + N U E A O T + O T E I A
O + O N E L T I O T + E G C N
+ R G S C I N A A T E X O A D
+ I G + P I R S W + A T R + +
+ + + A L H S T + + R U T + +
+ + + A N I O + U + T R I + +
+ + K + U I + R + N H E N K +
+ L + M + + C + U + W + C + +
A S U M U H + + + S O O + + +
F E R T I L I Z E R R L O A M
A I R E T C A B + D M + + + +
+ + + + + I + + E + + + + + +
+ + + + R + + B C O M P O S T
+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + +
    
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(Over, Down, Direction)

ACID (14, 4, N)
 AIR (7, 12, SW)
 ALKALINITY (1, 10, NE)
 BACTERIA (8, 12, W)
 BEDROCK (8, 14, NE)
 CLAY (5, 4, NE)
 COMPOST (9, 14, E)
 EARTHWORM (11, 4, S)
 FERTILIZER (1, 11, E)
 FUNGI (6, 1, SW)
 HUMUS (6, 10, W)

LOAM (12, 11, E)
 NITROGEN (13, 8, N)
 NUTRIENT (10, 8, NW)
 ORGANIC (1, 3, SE)
 PHOSPHORUS (1, 1, SE)
 POTASSIUM (12, 1, SW)
 ROOT (7, 1, SE)
 SAND (15, 1, S)
 TEXTURE (12, 2, S)
 WATER (9, 5, NW)