

Test your soil health by burying a pair of briefs!



Experiment Instructions:

First: get permission from an adult to do this experiment! Use an old pair of underwear.

Dig a hole 6-8 inches deep and wide enough to lay the underwear flat so you have maximum contact with the soil.

Cover the underwear with soil. If conditions are dry, please water several times over the next 2 months to make sure your soil microbes remain active. After 2 months, dig up your underwear and see what is going on in your soil.

A healthy soil is full of bacteria, fungi, arthropods, protozoa, and earthworms. You see, 100% cotton is a food source for the microbes and other organisms in the soil. This is why after two months in the ground, the worse looking the briefs, the more biological activity you have in your soil. Biologically active soil is healthy soil.

So, because we use 100% cotton underwear with elastic bands, the soil microbes will break down the cotton leaving the elastic band. So if you dig up your undies and there isn't much left, you have healthy soil! If you dig up your undies and they look a lot like they did when you planted them, you probably should take steps to improve your soil health.

Even if you only have a moderate decomposition of your underwear, you can always do more to make your soil better! Check our website for ways to improve your soil health!

<https://bit.ly/2KZCHIE>

Find out more about Soil Health and Your Undies at

<https://www.johndeerefurrow.com/2018/03/09/soil-your-undies/> or enter #soilyourundies!

Source: Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District.

Photo credit: Anthony Bly and igrow.org