

Something To Grow On



Turfing The Net

A new web site from Cornell's Department of Floriculture & Ornamental Horticulture provides information on a wide variety of technical and general soil topics.



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The World Wide Web is an ever-expanding information resource and an efficient means to transfer knowledge. Internet web sites from reliable sources can provide practical information for effective management of turfgrass systems. *Something to Grow On*, a web site from the Department of Floriculture & Ornamental Horticulture at Cornell University, provides useful information for the commercial green industry as well as individuals interested in learning more about nutrients, soil properties and how they affect plant growth. The site's address is <http://www.cals.cornell.edu/dept/flori/growon/field.html>.

Help with Practical Problems and Answers to Questions

Visitors to the site will discover a wealth of practical information and guidelines and instructions to help them diagnose worrisome problems and take steps to solve them. Suppose you suspect a plant nutrient deficiency in a lawn or turf field. A visit to the *Something to Grow On* site will provide instruction on how to collect a soil sample for nutrient analysis and how to make sense of the soil test results.

Information on a wide variety of topics is presented through the site to help visitors answer diverse technical and general questions. For example, if you've ever wondered how soil pH affects nutrient availability, why nutrients leach more readily from sandy soils than from clay soils, what happens when you add lime to soil,

what are common sources of soluble salts, can excessive amounts of salts harm plants, and what nutrients are present in a complete fertilizer, you can find this information at the *Something to Grow On* site.

Further, you can learn how to interpret laboratory soil test results and apply this information to solve your turf problem. Find out why soil pH plays such a critical role in maintaining healthy turfgrass. Differentiate between cation exchange capacity, buffering capacity and exchange acidity, and discover what these values can tell you about your soil.

A Diversity of Topics

There's more! *Something to Grow on* contains information about many additional topics, including:

- the nitrogen cycle
- sources of nutrients
- macronutrients
- micronutrients
- fertilizer classification
- mobile and immobile elements
- foliar analysis
- liming
- soil properties
- fertilizer application rates
- salt index

Although this site and some specific nutrient management recommendations it contains

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were developed for producers of field-grown nursery crops, it includes fundamental soil nutrient management information that is beneficial to turfgrass and landscape managers alike.

So the next time you're surfing the net, unearth practical soil and nutrient management information located in *Something to Grow On*. The information you find may help you be a more effective turfgrass manager.

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The main page of the *Something to Grow On* web site (above) lists a comprehensive array of topics covered by the site. A section on fertilization (below) includes a discussion of advantages and disadvantages of fall fertilization. The site can be accessed at <http://www.cals.cornell.edu/dept/flori/growon/field.html>.

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