Unit 6 SOIL ANALYSIS

LETTER TO A CONSUMER

Now that you have completed Soil Analysis Lab, it is time to begin the second part of this assignment. You are to write a report for this consumer in the form of a letter explaining the results that you got from your testing and recommendations on how he or she may improve their soil.

For example, if you found that the soil was deficient in potassium, you would recommend adding potash to their soil. Remember that good soil should have a pH close to 7, an ample supply of the basic mineral nutrients, and should not contain excessive amounts of carbonates or salts.

In addition, there should be a wide range of particle sizes in the soil so that it retains an adequate supply of water and makes mineral nutrients available to root hairs while at the same time allowing for air and drainage.

If the soil’s percolation or permeability rates are too slow or too fast, it would be prudent to recommend the addition of clay or sand depending on the situation. If there was little or no organic matter in the soil, it would also be advisable to add humus to the soil or suggest that the consumer begin a composting operation.

If you observed a special problem with the soil such as an excessive amount of rocks, a severe insect infestation, or a hardpan (hard soil layer that is difficult to break up into pieces) situation, you will want to recommend a mitigation.

If you find that your consumer has excellent soil, then you should explain to him or her in detail why their soil is so terrific.

This letter must be typed. It should be at least one-two pages, double spaced if typed 12 font size. MLA format if references used. The first page is a summary of all the tests you did, and the second page is all the recommendations you have for your consumer. This paper is due by January 27, 2016. This is placed in your notebook.

**Due Date: December 16th**