Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Soil type/pH

A garden is only as good as its soil. How plants perform is based on how fertile the soil is. One important measure of fertility is pH. This is an indicator of the microorganism activity and nutrient availablility. An ideal pH level is between 5.5 and 7.0.

**Testing for pH**

You will need:

* Boiled clean water
* Soil sample
* Tightly covered jar
* Universal Indicator paper

Step 1: Gather three soil samples (a tsp each) from 6-8 inches below the surface from areas scattered throughout our garden area.

Step 2: Crush any clumps into smaller dissolvable particles. Pour the particles into a jar filled with boiled clean water.

Step 3: Vigorously shake the sample and then should be left for 5 to 10 minutes to let all soluble substances to dissolve and to let all hard parts to sediment.

Step 4: Quickly dip the paper into the liquid above the sediment a and observe the color change.

Step 5: Record your results and the results of other groups in the class on the following page.

Another important test is determining what type of soil we have. Please follow the directions on the following page to determine the soil type.