



University of Idaho
Extension

SOIL TESTING USE OF NATIVE AND NEARLY- NATIVE PLANTS



SOIL TESTING

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXTENSION

ASL lab at UI Moscow

- Free test kits at UI Extension in CDA
- Test fees
- Consultation in CDA
- Suggestions:
 - Avoid collection mishaps
 - Test all soil. Topsoil & compost for your clients - turf, landscape beds and esp. vegetable garden areas. Small price to pay for their happiness, healthy plants, sustainable landscape = referrals

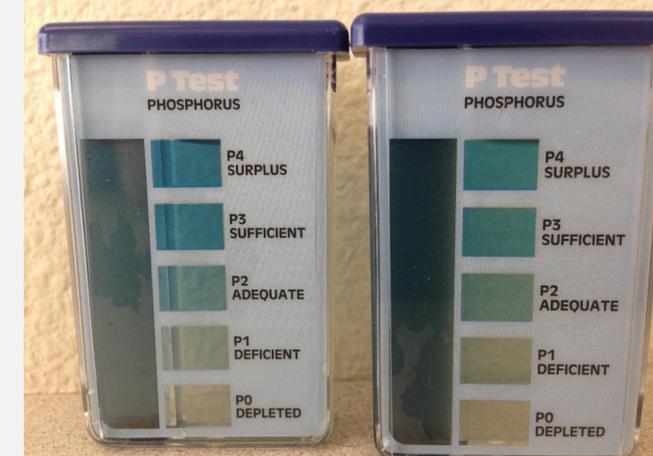
SOIL TESTING, CONT.

DIY KITS FROM THE HARDWARE STORE



Questions I studied related to two types of DIY tests:

- Sufficient guidance for homeowners to produce an adequate sample
 - Sometimes
- Can the average homeowner interpret test results, based on info contained in the test?
 - Not really
- How do the DIY kits results compare with UI Analytical Lab results
 - Poorly; less precise, high variability, but less expensive



LET'S LOOK MORE AT CONSERVATION GOALS

RATHER THAN JUST PLANTING ONLY NATIVES, THAT'S NOT ALWAYS REALISTIC

To succeed we need to redesign residential landscapes to:

1. Support diverse pollinator populations and complex food webs

2. Store carbon

3. Better manage our watersheds

How?

Plants and the design of these plants, accomplish these goals.



NATIVES AND NEARLY-NATIVES

- Native Landscaping – Native landscaping refers to the design, construction, and maintenance of landscapes that use native (indigenous) plants.
- Naturalized Landscaping – Naturalized Landscaping refers to design, construction, and maintenance of landscapes that use native (indigenous) plants **and non-native plants in a way that mimics nature with a goal of achieving sustainability.**
- Native plants have evolved with our area and with the insects and wildlife they sustain.
- IT'S NOT LOW MAINTENCE OR SUSTAINABLE IF YOU PUT THE WRONG PLANT IN THE WRONG PLACE
- Do your research on plant needs and micro-site conditions
- Match the client's goals and expectations

“NATIVE” PLANTS



NATIVES AND NEARLY-NATIVES



Natives – Challenges

Definition of “native” to your clients

Genetic Diversity

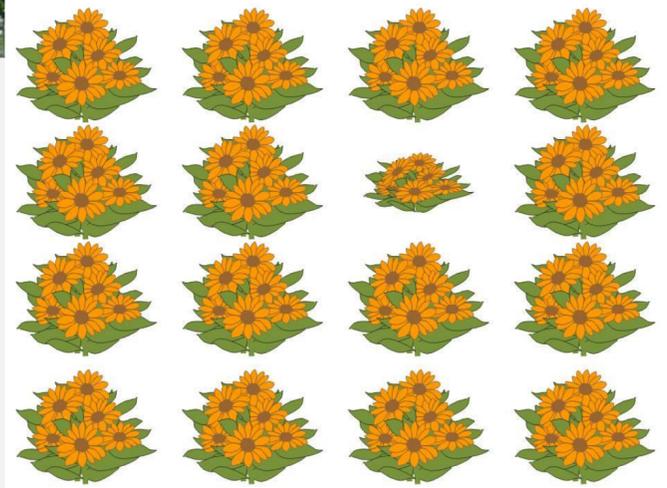
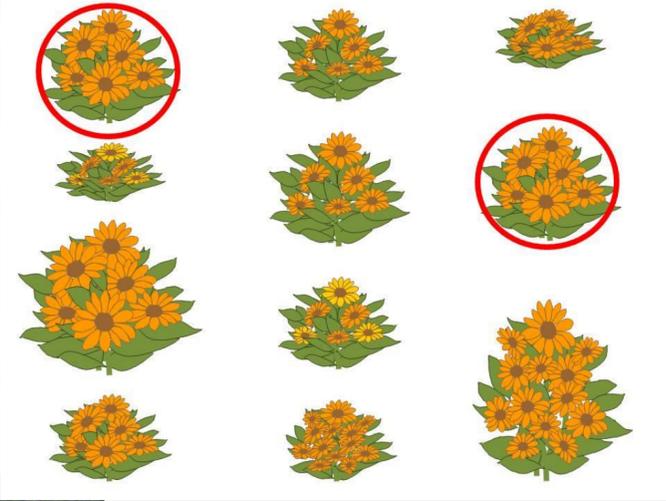
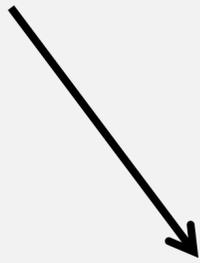
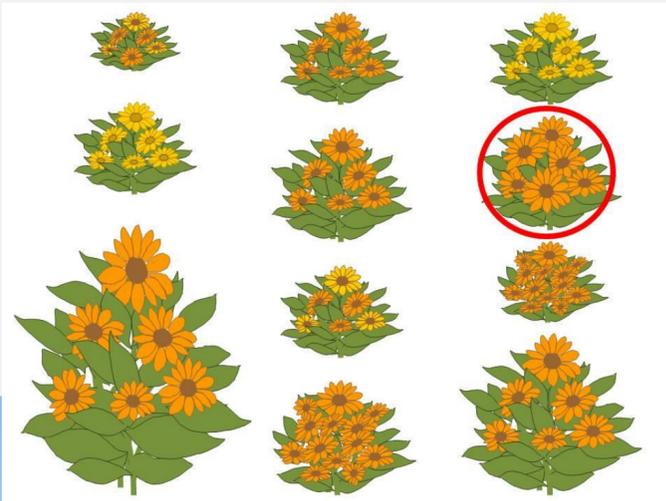
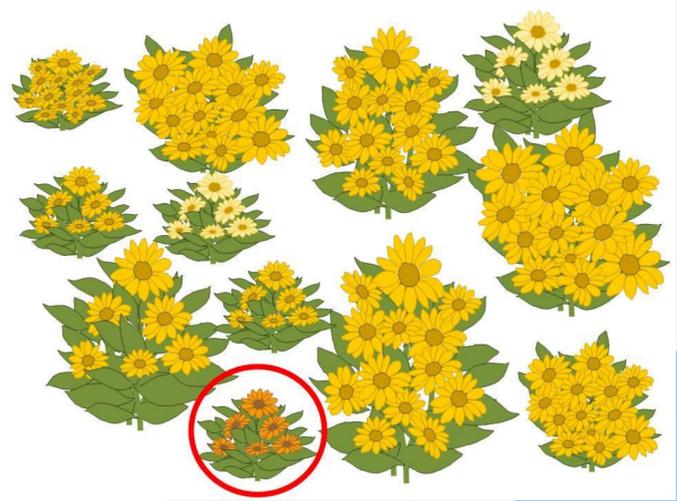
Inconsistent plant size and shape

Flower color

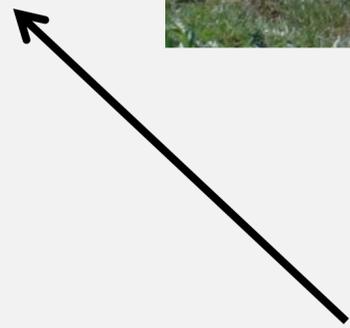
Flower timing and duration

Brainchild of Dr. Steven Love @ UI Boise

Developed by Native Roots, LLC



Native Roots

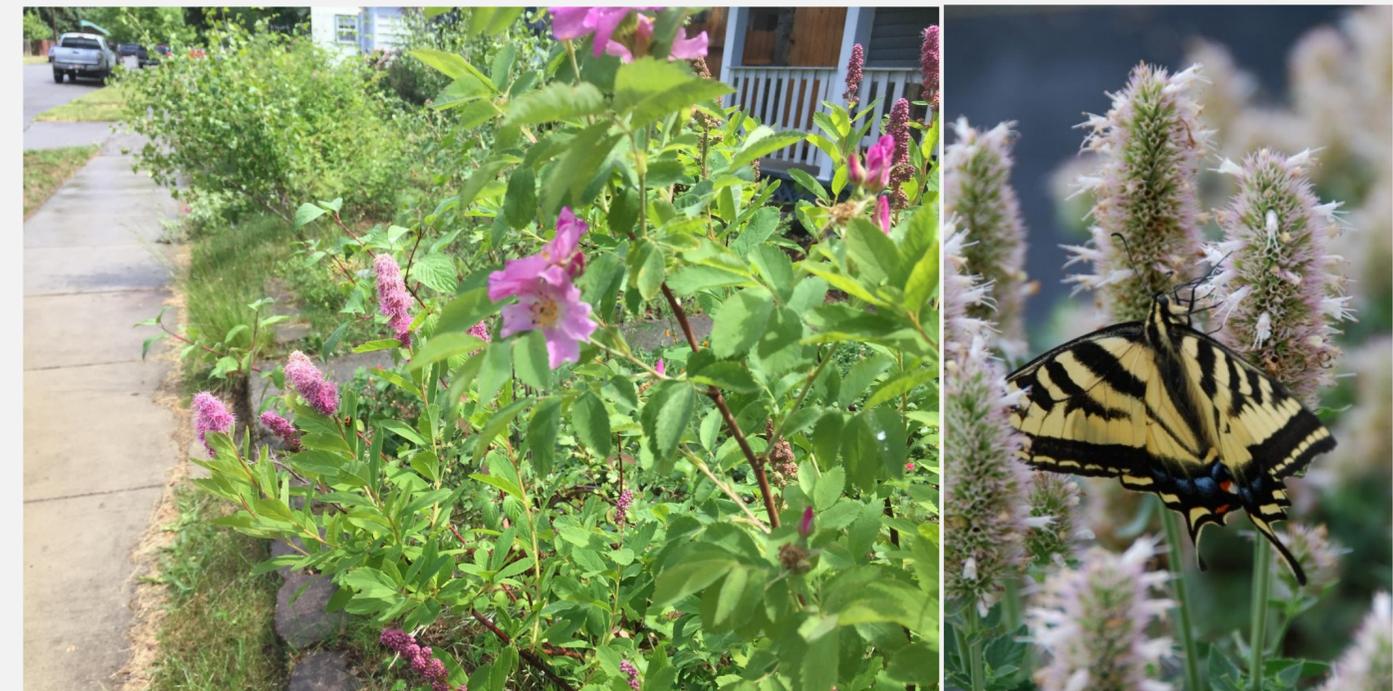


OUR PERSPECTIVE...

DISTRIBUTERS, DEMO GARDEN AND MY YARD



- Adapted to the area
- Easier to grow/maintain
- Consistent growth habit
- Long bloom times
- Season-long aesthetics
- Flower as young plants
- Good overwintering survival
- Native plants = habitat for native wildlife, especially, pollinators



NATIVE ROOTS TAG MEANS...



- Predictable “native” plants
- Diverse plant pallet
 - 30 in 2015, expand over time (200+ in que)
- Disease resistance
- Long bloom periods
- Adapted to the area
- Hardy plants, good survival
- Wildlife habitat

THE POLLINATION PROJECT

- The Pollination Project and University of Idaho Demonstration Garden inspires and educates our region about pollinators and ecosystems present in healthy, innovative gardens and landscapes.
- Native-nearly native plant display showing how you can achieve support for pollinators

and their necessary habitat with accessible plants available to homeowners

- Demo reducing pesticides
- Raise native bees

