



## The Relevance of Soil Biology in Assessing Fertility and Soil Health (Webnair)

**When:** Apr 14, 2015 2:00 pm US/Eastern

**Length:** 01:00 (hh:mm)

**Pre-registration not required.**

**Presenter(s):**

- Will Brinton, Ph.D., Director, Woods End Laboratories and Faculty Associate, University of Maine, Mount Vernon, ME

### Webinar Format:

- [Adobe Connect](#)

This webinar is scheduled for Apr 14, 2015 2:00 pm US/Eastern.

#### [How to join the webinar?](#)

Participants will learn how soil biology directly and indirectly influence crop growth and nutrient cycling, along with methods for measuring biological activity in soil and interpreting soil respiration to understand nutrient availability.

Soil health is defined as the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem to sustain plants, animals and humans. Nutrient cycling, a key soil function that is driven by soil microbial activity, is often higher in healthy soils, but is difficult to account for when developing crop nutrient budgets. This webinar will provide information on how soil health can be measured in a lab, along with plant available nutrients and the importance of accounting for both the organic and inorganic forms of N, P, and K. In addition, participants will gain an understanding of how:

- Soil biology can influence crop/plant growth
- Analyzing soil health fits in with testing for soil nutrients
- Soil health is related to fertility and soil management
- Soil respiration in soil testing can improve nutrient recommendations and reduce environmental impacts

In the Soil Health and Sustainability series, this webinar is presented by [USDA NRCS Science and Technology](#). Contact [Holli Kuykendall, Ph.D.](#), National Technology Specialist, for more information about this webinar.

Audio is VOIP only | [Live captions](#)

NOTE: A "view" button will be available within one week of the live presentation date to access the on-demand recording of this webinar.

## Up Coming Events

### Twilight Meetings

A twilight meeting is planned at Highmoor Farm for July 22<sup>nd</sup>. They will have on display the trial gardens with various varieties of fruits and vegetables being grown for review. The Pomological Society will also be there that day. It will be good day for some practical learning at the hands of the experts.

Two other twilight meetings are being planned for the summer. Further information will be coming out on them as it is available.

### Conferences

The New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference is schedule for Manchester NH Dec 15, 16, 17. This is the premiere fruit and vegetable show for the northeastern part of the US. The educational program is very large and covers a great number of crops.

### A Big Thank You

A big THANK YOU goes out to Nourse Farms for donations made to the MVSFGA Agriculture Trade Show meeting and to the Fruit and Vegetable Schools held in Portland and Bangor.

### Suggestions for topics and Speakers

The MVSFGA directors would like your input for program topics and speakers for next January's annual meeting. Good speakers are usually booked many months in advance and would need to be scheduled now. If have you idea's on topics and/or speakers, please contact one of the directors , David Handley or Mark Hutton at Highmoor Farm.

### Website complete

The website for the MVSFGA is complete. If you have not taken a look at it, you will find it interesting and informative. It is located at: [www.mvsfga.org](http://www.mvsfga.org)

## MVSFGA

MVSFGA is an association of vegetable and small fruit growers dedicated to the promotion and advocacy of the vegetable and small fruit industry in Maine.

MVSFGA supports research education, and promotion and political advocacy. The association has provided important testimony at legislative hearings on such issues as pesticide regulation, labor, IPM, farmland preservation and technology transfer.

MVSFGA members receive the annual New England Vegetable Production Guide, and the New England Small Fruit Production Guide. Members also receive the association newsletter. To become a member of the MVSFGA please write to; William Jordan Jr. Treasurer, 21 Wells Road, Cape Elizabeth, Maine 04107, email: [whjir30@aol.com](mailto:whjir30@aol.com)

Letters, comments, articles, calendars of events listings, and advertisements related to vegetable and small fruit production are welcome. Please send comments and information for the newsletter to: Walter Goss, 311 Elm Street, Mechanic Falls, Maine 04256, email: [gossfarm@roadrunner.com](mailto:gossfarm@roadrunner.com).

MVSFGA Directors are : Bill Bamford (president), Lauchlin Titus (vice-president), William Jordan (Treasurer), Ford Stevenson (secretary), Rick Belanger, Keith Harris, Jeff Spear, Jason Osborne, Tom Stevenson, Lisa Turner