

Edible Soil Kit

This activity has been a big hit at public library visits, county fairs, and youth camps. It's a fun (and educational) activity to share with different age groups in the community!

Forming just one inch of soil can take 500-1,000 years, but this recipe for edible soil takes just minutes to assemble and enjoy!

Ingredients:

Candy-Coated Chocolates (like M&Ms)
Chocolate Pudding
Chocolate Sandwich Cookies, crushed
(like Oreos)
Multicolored Sprinkles
Gummy Worms
Yellow Sprinkles or Shredded Coconut

Preparation:

1. Prepare pudding according to the package directions (if not using pre-made pudding).
2. Place cookies into sealed plastic bag and crush using a rolling pin or your hands. Alternatively, use a food processor to crush the cookies.

Assembly Directions:

1 Place a layer of candy-coated chocolates in the bottom of the cup to simulate the parent material, which serves as a starting point for healthy soil.



2 Add a serving (approximately 1/2 cup) of chocolate pudding to show the subsoil. This layer typically contains sand, silt, clay and even some nutrients that have seeped through the upper layers.



3 The next layer is topsoil simulated by the crushed cookies. Topsoil is where most plant roots grow and the majority of the nutrients are found. Good Iowa farmland has a layer of topsoil 3 feet thick!



4 Living organisms, including insects, microorganisms and bacteria, are very important for good soil health. Add a spoonful of multicolored sprinkles to the surface to simulate these helpful organisms.



5 Add a couple gummy worms to simulate the earthworms that help create healthy soil. The presence of earthworms is a good indicator of healthy soil.



6 The final step is to add a layer of yellow sprinkles to represent residue that protects the soil from erosion.

Shredded coconut can be substituted here. It is more representative of residue, but we have found it not a favorite with the kids.



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