

Report 1 – Soil Moisture Lab

Introduction (Part A – 10 % / Part B – 10 %)

- Did they introduce the topic and do some background research on soil moisture properties? We are looking for something of depth in comprehension of soil moisture properties and the importance of learning about them.
- Was each soil moisture parameter introduced and defined? (Proper references, not just referencing the manual)
- Darcy's Law? Atterberg limits? Soil Permeability?
- Are there references in their research? (Proper references)
- Did they state the objective of the report? (Where? Why? How?)
- Did they introduce the soil sample they had? A brief description of the site and its importance to the soil sample via moisture qualities?

Methods (Part A - 7.5 % / Part B - 7.5 %)

- Did they explain the soil moisture measuring apparatus for each measurement? (i.e. Pressure plate extractor, humidifier, etc...) Did they explain how it works?
- Did they include any figures of the setups? Any equations?
- Did they include all of the methodology for the complete experiment? Don't forget all of the experiments (SAT, FC, PWP, HP, LL, PL, constant head and fall head permeability tests).
- Did they keep the writing in the proper tense? No first person.

Results (Part A – 10 % / Part B – 10 %)

- Are the figures introduced before they are placed in text? (i.e. need to reference them before they show up)
- Are the figures formatted properly? (Proper axis, significant digits, axis labels, colour/pattern to differentiate, clean looking?)
- Did they compile the data concisely? (i.e. put all of the information into a larger table instead of small, singular tables that could be combined)
- Don't just copy and paste the same paragraphs over and over again.

Discussion (30 %)

- Is there a discussion about the results? Do they go into detail about the "WHY"?
- Did they go over any trends found and explain them with research to support their explanations?
- Did they find any information that supports the results they have? (i.e. sandy soil had low moisture levels in their sample, is this something that is verifiable across most sandy soils?)
- Did they explain the results in terms of the 10 ha uniform site?
- Did they talk about effects of the results from a trafficability perspectives and soil erosion?
- Are there appropriate references backing up their discussion?
- Did they deal with the matter of belief and trust regarding the results? (Reliability, uncertainty, representativeness, context)
- Did they suggest ways to enhance reliability? How would they make the lab better? (Sampling? Procedure? Human errors?)

Conclusion (5 %)

- What was learned from looking into the soil moisture at their site?
- No personal comments about what they feel, but just what was accomplished in the lab.

Title, Appendix & References (10 %)

- Is the title creative and informative? Does it specifically state what will be looked at in the report?
- Is the bibliography formatted properly? (Alphabetical order, APA, consistent format) Are all of the reference academic? (I.e. no URL/wiki references)
- Is the appendix formatted properly? (I.e. proper titles for each appendix) If necessary, data should be in appendix if it's too large or complex for the body of the report.
- Is the paper grammatically correct? Does it flow well? Proper paragraph and sentences? Spelling?