

WALLACE LABORATORIES, LLC

365 Coral Circle

El Segundo, CA 90245

phone (310) 615-0116 fax (310) 640-6863

February 19, 2021

Kelly Rockwell, president@TopangaCommunityCenter.org
Topanga Community Center
20726 Cheney Drive
Topanga, CA 90290

RE: 3 samples received Feb. 17, 2021

NOTE HIGHLIGHTED TEXT BELOW FOR REPORT ON AREA WITHIN GARDEN

Dear Kelly,

Sample 1 Near Parking Lot with Crushed Asphalt, 12"

The soil has modest alkalinity with a pH of 7.32. Salinity is low at 0.13 millimho/cm.

The fertility is low. Nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, manganese, zinc, boron and sulfur are low. Iron is moderate. Magnesium is high. Sodium is low. The concentrations of common non-essential heavy metals are low.

Sample 2 Terraced Area Below Parking Area, 12"

The pH is moderately alkaline at 7.67. Salinity is modest at 0.33 millimho/cm.

Limestone is present. It induces iron deficiency in acid-loving plants.

The soil is fairly fertile. Nitrogen is modest. Sulfur is low. Boron is moderate. Phosphorus, potassium, iron, manganese, zinc, copper and magnesium are high. Sodium is low.

Plant available arsenic is modest at 0.6 part per million. Sensitive plants such as herbaceous plants need plant-available arsenic below 1 part per million. Less sensitive plants such as woody plants need plant-available arsenic below about 2 parts per million. Grasses are fairly tolerant of arsenic. Arsenic used to be applied to soil below asphalt in the past to inhibit the growth of weeds.

Plant-available lead is moderate at 10.5 parts per million. Normally, plant available lead should be less than about 30 parts per million for good plant growth.

Since heavy metals do not generally migrate through the soil profile, the concentrations of arsenic and lead may be higher in the upper soil profile. The current levels of arsenic and lead are suitable for plant growth.

Sample 3 Inside Enclosure at Garden Space, 12"

The pH is moderately alkaline at 7.67. Salinity is modest at 0.33 millimho/cm.

The soil fertility is fairly good. Nitrogen is modest. Sulfur is low. Boron is moderate. Phosphorus, potassium, iron, manganese, zinc, copper and magnesium are well supplied. Sodium is low. The concentrations of common non-essential heavy metals are low.

Recommendations

Moderate salinity is desirable. Moderate salinity indicates the presence of nutrients.

General soil preparation on a square foot basis. Broadcast the following materials uniformly. The rates are per 1,000 square feet. Incorporate them homogeneously to a 6-inch depth.

Blood meal – 8 pounds for all

K-Mag or Diamond K KMS (sul-po-mag) (0-0-22) – 12 pounds for #1

Bone meal – 15 pounds for #1

agricultural gypsum - 10 pounds

compost - about 4 cubic yards, sufficient for 3% to 5% soil organic matter on a dry weight basis

Soil preparation on a volume basis, incorporate homogeneously the following materials into excavated soil. Rates are expressed on a cubic yard basis.

Blood meal – 1/3 pound for all

K-Mag or Diamond K KMS (sul-po-mag) (0-0-22) – 1/2 pound for #1

Bone meal – 1 pound for #1

agricultural gypsum – 1/2 pound

compost - about 20% by volume, sufficient for 3% to 5% soil organic matter on a dry weight basis

Compost may supply part or all of the nutrient requirements.

For site maintenance, apply blood meal at 8 pounds per 1,000 square feet about once per quarter or other suitable nitrogen such as feather meal, soy bean meal, etc. The amount of needed nitrogen will vary with the phase of the cropping cycle for edible crops and with the amount of production.

Correct iron deficiency if present (yellow new-growth leaves with green veins) with BASF Sprint 138 Fe or other FeEDDHA chelated iron. Dissolve it in water at the rate of 2 tablespoonfuls per 5 gallons and drench the soil when it is partially dry.

Monitor the site with periodic testing. Adjust the fertility program as needed. Other nutrients will be needed in the future.

Sincerely,

Garn A. Wallace, Ph. D.

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