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Table Questions**



Table Top Discussion 2

How Do You Assess Soil Health & Biochar Amendments?

Interested in using biochar in your urban farm or garden, but not sure where to start? How do you incorporate upfront testing of your soil and determine what amendments to use? Join this group discussion with a soil scientist to document what questions you have around soil health, soil assessment, and using biochar as a soil amendment. Bring your wisdom with community farming and help talk through this important issue.

☐ BIOCHAR ADDITION TO SOIL GUIDANCE/USE

- EDUCATION MATERIALS
- POTENTIAL STATEWIDE CITIZEN SCIENCE EFFORT
- HOW TO ANALYZE FOR BIOCHAR IN SOIL

☐ BIOCHAR MIXTURE TO COMPOST

☐ CARBON STABILITY IN SOIL

☐ ?

Topic 2: How do you assess soil health; biochar amendments?

- Determine what resource concerns, conditions, crops would benefit from biochar, biochar + compost - how much and why is it needed?

- Determine what wood (feedstocks) will be used to create, who will be producing wood and who will be producing biochar, and (kind of separately) who will buy it / get cost share and who is transporting it - how much - how to keep in MN - not Missouri

- Specifications for MNDOT - end use, feedstock, testing, cost, transportation, risk/hazards application, size, how it is received/packaged, how is it taxed? (hopefully similar to compost)

- ^{State-level} MN Pilot project for results and yield loss protection
Subsidy → pilot, subsidies, proven results
- Cost share - NRCS, FSA - use in ALE, ACEP, CRP, CREP, CSP

TABLE TWO Soil Health BioChar Amendments

4. Need guidelines?

1. How to implement in
Urban gardens?

- ratios
- Price
- Bagged/trucked
- Production vs Purpose
- Application Method ie. similar to compost/peat?

2. Administer Soil tests More
- who to prioritize? Where is it most helpful?
- Progress reports on gardens

3. Education More Accessible

- Publish Books
- Ed websites
- Youth resources
- How to Make @ Home or Medium Scale
+ Test??