Soil Survey – Benton County
Field Biology

Please record all information for steps in **bold** – *save this information* in a Microsoft Word file for inclusion in the introduction you will write for a soil inquiry project. This is an individual assignment. When you have finished your work, e-mail it to dan.bregar@corvallis.k12.or.us with the subject "per *X your name* soil survey".

1. Using Internet Explorer ONLY, go to the Benton County Zoning Map GIS website: http://gis.co.benton.or.us/ZoningMap/index.htm

2. If the screen doesn't look well-formatted, click on the torn piece of paper to the right of the site address ("compatibility mode").

3. Click on the "+" sign next to "Legend" and deselect all of the Aerial Photo layers and the Zoning layers. Put a check in the box next to "Soil Layers"

4. Locate your house by zooming into the Corvallis area and finding your street. Be patient – with so many people using the same database, this might take a little while!

5. Click on the plus sign next to "Identify" and choose "Taxlots and Addresses"

6. Using the "Identify" tool (the little blue icon with an "i" in it), click on your house to show the official owner (you may need to click on the Taxlot number to show all of the information).

7. From the "Identify" menu, choose "NRCS Soils". Identify the soil type at your house. **Record this information.**

8. To see the aerial photography in your neighborhood, select all of the Aerial Photo Layers and click on the "Redraw Map" button. (This may take a while – if it takes too long, you can just go to the next step.)

9. Next, look up this soil type in the Benton County Soil Survey at this website: http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/Manuscripts/OR003/0/BentonOR.pdf. Click on the section called "Classification of the Soils", then select "Taxonomic Units and Their Morphology", and click on the appropriate soil type in the list.

10. In the text describing the soil's characteristics, find and **record the following information: the drainage class, the permeability, and the texture of the uppermost horizon.**

11. Repeat steps 3-10 using Crescent Valley's campus – there are three soil types that show up on CV's campus and you should record the information for all three of these soil types.