

Soil Science (CSES 2040)

Soil science was a class that I greatly enjoyed, as in addition to its importance to my major, it has a personal importance as well, as I am an avid gardener. I enjoyed learning how to determine how fertile a soil based off its cation exchange capacity and how to raise and lower the pH of soil using lime or sulfur in order to suite the plants you wish to grow. I now feel comfortable taking a soil test and feeling the soil in my hands and determining its texture, and then using a Munsell chart to determine the color of the soil. These tasks that I have learned are important because they will be useful at a future job. I may need to know the type of soil I am working with if it is agriculture related, say planting corn or soybeans to change to a biofuel. A less obvious application would be for any job related to infrastructure, I will need to know the type of soil I will be building on, if I am working with a vertisol- a soil that is know to shrink and swell depending on moisture- I would need to be cautious with my design and make sure my structure and materials can handle the shrinking and swelling of the soil.