Standard Procedure for Washing Mesh Decomposition Bags

Made by Ryan Meyer on Monday July 12, 2020

**Materials**

* Wide and tall container
* Long and short container
* Sink with DI water
* Large weigh boats
* Sharpie
* Mesh bags from decomposition study
* Large cart

**Procedure**

1. Ensure that you have all of the samples needed: 4 samples from rows A-J with soils 1 and 2
2. Begin filling wide and tall container with DI water
3. Select one small (not mesh) bag with a row label on it from larger soil type bag and remove the 4 samples from this bag noting both the row and soil type
4. Take 4 weigh boats and label the bottom as follows: ROW, SOIL TYPE(1 or 2) T =X
5. Below this write the BAG I.D. for each of the 4 bags you have and set the bag on top of the weigh boat so that they are together and you will not mix them up
6. Stop DI water
7. select a bag from its weigh boat and shake as much organic matter as you can towards the bottom of the bag
8. Crimp the top of the bag with your finger so that no organic matter falls out during washing
9. Submerge the bag in the DI water and use your free hand to rub as much dirt off of the bag as possible
10. Keeping the bag crimped with your fingers turn it upside down and let as much water flow out as you can to make drying go faster
11. Set the bag in the long and short container with the weigh boat behind it so that they are associated with each other
12. Wash the other 3 bags using steps 7-11
13. Set the washed bags in the weigh boat and put on the cart
14. Dump out the dirty water from the wide and tall container and begin refilling it
15. Continue steps 2-14 until all samples are washed
16. Dump out any excess water that has pooled in the weigh boats to make drying go faster
17. Put weigh boats in drying oven, you can stack them if necessary
18. Rinse containers and set upside down in the sink to dry, clean up the dirt that has inevitably been flung all over