



# SOIL TEST

## WHAT SOIL TYPE IS BEST FOR GROWING RICE?

Rice is grown differently than other grains because it is a semi-aquatic plant that thrives in a shallow flood. By flooding rice fields, the soil is able to hold moisture, allowing the weed and pest population to be significantly reduced. Heavy clay and silt loam soil types are often not good to grow crops, but due to their ability to retain water very well, they are perfect for growing rice. A typical rice field is flooded to a depth of 2-3 inches during the growing season and is drained before harvest. During this soil test activity, students will be able to see which soil type is best for retaining water and, therefore, best for rice production.

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED

3 clear cups with small holes in the bottom

1 cup clay soil

3 paper plates

3 clear cups without holes in the bottom

Water

1 cup garden soil

1 cup sand

## SOIL TEST

- Using the cups with the holes in the bottom, fill one cup with garden soil, one cup with sand and one cup with clay soil.
- Fill the other 3 cups (without holes) with water
- Holding each soil cup over a plate, pour water into the soil cups at the same time (Have a few volunteers help you)
- Students will be able to observe which soil lets the water pass through the cup quickly and which soil holds the water.

For more information and resources on rice production and soil, visit the *Rice Production* tab on our website.