DR. DIRT'S SOIL TESTS ANYONE CAN DO AT HOME · TEST 11 OF 11

The Red Cabbage pH Test

Is your soil sour (acid) or basic?



Time: 30 minutes | Kids and grown-ups together

You will need

- ☐ Two red cabbage leaves and hot water (a grown-up's job)
- ☐ A strainer and coffee filters
- ☐ Clear cups and a spoon
- ☐ Distilled water or rainwater (tap water can change the color)
- ☐ For comparing: lemon juice, plain water, baking soda in water

Try it

1. A grown-up chops the leaves, covers them with hot water and lets it sit 10 minutes. Strain out the purple juice.
2. Mix 2 spoonfuls of soil with 4 spoonfuls of distilled water. Stir, then let it settle for 10 minutes.
3. Pour the soil water through a coffee filter into a clear cup.
4. Add a few spoonfuls of cabbage juice. Do the same with the comparing cups.

What it means

Pink
Acid (sour), like lemon juice.

Purple
About neutral, like plain water. Most garden plants like slightly acid to neutral soil.

Blue or green
Basic, like baking soda.

> **Good to know:** Colors change gently in soil, so it's a rough guide. For the exact number, Dr. Dirt uses a pH meter.

Wonder: *Predict first: what color will your soil turn?*

My result