Soil – A Contractors Perspective

Presented by Jared Pyka

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Agenda

My Background

What is Soil

How do we use this on a jobsite

Examples and Past Experience

Summary
My background

• My introduction to the industry
• TerraCare LLC
• Joss Growers
• Native Texas Nursery
• Texas Tech
• ValleyCrest Landscape Development, Inc.
What is soil?

- **Definition** - The upper layer of earth in which plants grow, a black or dark brown material typically consisting of a mixture of organic remains, clay, and rock particles. - Google

- **Structure** – The way individual particles of sand, silt, and clay are assembled

- **Texture** – % Sand, Silt, Clay

- **What is Ideal Soil?**

![Soil Texture Diagram](https://landscapeforlife.org)

Photo courtesy: landscapeforlife.org
How does this apply to water conservation?

- Infiltration
- Field Capacity
- Water Retention
- How Does Water Act in Soil?
How do we use this information on a jobsite?

- Existing Conditions
- Desired Conditions
- Import New or Amend Existing?
Project Examples: Imported Soil

- Whole Site Has Been Excavated/Demolished
- Roof Top/Container Plantings
- Unique Plantings
- Structural Soil
Project Examples: Amended Soil

- Areas Outside Limits of Building Construction
- Large Areas Undisturbed or Slightly Disturbed
Green Roof Considerations

- Dry Weight
- Saturated Weight
- Drainage
Summary

• Good Soil – A soil that has proper characteristics for the desired site conditions and plant types that will conserve water.

• The Goal – Strive to create desired structure and texture for the plant type and application using the most cost effective methods.

• The goal can be achieved over time
Questions?

Jared Pyka
Business Developer
(512) 272-8376
jpyka@valleycrest.com