6 November 2015

CanU Grow – Soil Science module

Debriefing notes

General Comments

* 30-35 minutes per activity station was about the right amount of time
* it was advised to reduce the sub-activities per station in some cases (e.g. Soil Physical Properties, Technology in Soil)
* it is best to have separate rooms for each activity to prevent noise and distractions
* in the lab, need to keep the benches clear of everything other than the activities

Specific Activity Comments

* Technology station
  + Do the longest sub-activity first, then the shorter activities later if there is time with all the students
* Soil Physical Properties
  + 2 sub-activities only, even that would be limited for time
  + do texture, soil color, carbonates
  + if structure is removed, there would be time for infiltration
* Soil Ecology
  + The students loved the microscopes
  + Best to freeze the settings so the students don’t keep changing the view
  + More microscopes, more to look at and less time for fiddling
  + Good flow in the sub-activities
  + Projecting microscope worked well
  + They enjoyed the hands-on
  + Next time, try to bring live specimens to show
* Nutrients
  + Good amount of activity at this station
  + Split into 2 groups and rotate
* Mitch’s Show in the Shed
  + They enjoyed the show
  + The rain woke them up
  + Differences in runoff/infiltration were clearly evident
* pH/Conductivity
  + 2 groups, rotate
  + they liked the litmus test and testing the edible samples
  + they liked using the meters

Future

* set up a small CanU group within SSGSA
* potential people: Fernanda, Theresa, Mayowa
* is there a means of recognition for the grad students who make this activity happen?
* Feed the volunteers