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