



New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

Rutgers Soil Testing Laboratory
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Interpretation of Organic Matter Levels in New Jersey Soils				
Organic Matter	Soil Texture			
%	<u>Loamy Sand</u>	<u>Sandy Loam</u>	<u>Loam</u>	<u>Silt Loam</u>
less than 0.5%	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
0.5 to 1.0 %	Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
1.0 to 1.5 %	Medium	Low	Very Low	Very Low
1.5 to 2.0 %	High	Medium	Low	Low
2.0 to 2.5%	Very High	High	Medium	Low
2.5 to 3.0 %	Very High	Very High	Medium	Medium
3.5 to 4.0 %	Very High	Very High	High	Medium
4.0 to 5.0 %	Very High	Very High	Very High	High
more than 5 %	Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High
Notes:				
Organic matter percentages are determined by mass.				
Although organic matter would include anything organically-derived, samples are sieved to remove gravel (>2mm), which may also remove larger particulate organic matter as well, including sticks and roots.				
Organic matter content is a dynamic soil property, strongly influenced by management and affected by environmental conditions as microorganisms continue to decompose the organic matter and release nutrients.				