

**Project #9077 Assessing the Applicability of Soil Health
Testing of Fresh Vegetable Soil**

BRIEF

DESCRIPTION

Create a series of baseline vegetable soil sites for soil health measurements. These sites will be measured using a variety of soil health assessment techniques including testing the new suite of measurement available through the Cornell Soil Health Lab. The data will be related to observed/measured performance to evaluate the value and the applicability of these techniques as a means of tracking soil health over time, evaluating changes in management and as another means of evaluating land for purchase or rent.

PROJECT

OBJECTIVE

Ten soil health monitoring sites will be established on fresh vegetable farms and sampled by a summer student based out of the Ridgetown OMAFRA office. The selected fields will be assessed for soil health characteristics and their implications in observed productivity and past and current management techniques. The project will assess the usefulness of the Soil Health Test suite of measurements from Cornell University and other measures of soil health in predicting productivity and in indicating management options. These fields and associated sampling will also serve as baseline measures to track soil improvements over time on fresh vegetable farms.