






Soil organic matter: colour test.

Soil organic matter contains water and nutrients needed to sustain life. Darker colours usually mean higher amounts of organic matter are present. Follow the instructions below to work out your soil's organic matter content.

Take a moist soil sample. Dampen your soil if you need to. **Match your sample** to the colour chart below. **Read off your results from the colour chart below!**

Colour Chart

					
Average organic matter content	5%	3.5%	2.5%	2%	1.5%
Range of organic matter	3.5-7%	2.5-4%	2-3%	1.5-2.5%	1-2%

Find other tests and check out our work on our website:

soilsafe.auckland.ac.nz