

Soils 101: Written Assignment #1—Two-Page Research Paper

Due Tuesday, 24 February 2009

Assignment: Conduct a blind taste test at home on one organic and one conventional product of your choosing. Obviously, the two food products have to be the same fruit, vegetable, or food product. Then summarize your findings.

Considerations and requirements for conducting your test:

1. When purchasing your product, try to choose items as visually similar as possible. For produce, take into consideration the size and ripeness. For example, if you choose bananas, the organic and conventional bananas need to be of similar size and ripeness. If you decide to test a processed product like two peanut butters, try to ensure that they are as similar as possible in terms of salt content, etc.
2. Conduct the test with your friends or family. There should be at least 3 people participating. Don't participate in the conclusions yourself and don't let your test panel know which product is which until all results are gathered!
3. Decide on at least four testing criteria of your choosing. Criteria could be similar or different to those we used in class, such as sweetness, firmness, flavor, overall acceptability, appearance, etc.

Present the results of your study in a short paper up to 2 pages in length (typed, double or single spaced, 12 pt. font, New Times Roman) and no longer. Your final paper should be written for an educated audience, such as your peers in this class. It should include a short introduction, a description of the methods you used in conducting your taste test, the results and discussion of your findings, and a short conclusion.

Evaluation:

You will be evaluated on the thoroughness with which you present your methods and draw your conclusions, the organization of your paper, and the use of correct grammar and spelling.