



**Pre Conference Workshop HALF DAY  
8:30 AM to 12:00 PM**

**Soil and Compost Fundamentals**

This workshop will cover the basics of soil science including information on soil physical properties (texture, water holding capacity, bulk density) and nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus and suite of plant nutrients). It will discuss types of compost and how to use composts to improve soils in targeted outcomes. To achieve this end, it will cover how to sample soils; how to test soils and interpret results; different types of compost to use; how to apply and at what rate to address your specific goals. These topics will be integrated to clearly show how to best use compost to achieve expected results. Finally, the workshop will also include information on USDA programs to subsidize use of organics. Participants will leave with a foundation in the basics of soil science.

**Instructors:**

Sally Brown - University of Washington

Andrew Carpenter - Northern Tilth, LLC

**Fee:** \$295.00 for USCC members, \$350.00 for nonmembers

**Duration:** 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM

**Date:** February 2, 2026

**CCOM™/CCP™ PDHs:** 3.5

**Agenda**

- Soil basics
- Soil texture, water and soil, soil pH, nutrients
- Soil testing
- How to sample soils, different soil tests and interpretation of results
- Compost prescription
- Types of compost- how to sample compost and interpret compost test results
- Compost to meet nutrient demands- rate determination
- Application methods
- USDA programs/ state programs that subsidize compost use