



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

Soil and Compost Fundamentals

In this workshop, discover how to build healthier and more productive soils. You'll learn the essentials of soil science — from understanding soil physical properties like texture, water-holding capacity, and bulk density to key nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and a suite of vital plant nutrients.

We'll explore types of compost and how to use them to achieve your soil improvement goals. You'll gain practical skills in soil sampling, testing, and interpreting results, as well as how to select the right compost and apply it effectively with the best application rates for your specific outcomes.

Through an integrated approach, we'll connect all these elements to show how compost can transform your soils and deliver measurable, long-term results. You'll also learn about USDA programs that can help offset costs and support your use of organic soil amendments. By the end of this workshop, participants will walk away with a solid foundation in the basics of soil science — and the confidence to apply compost for maximum impact!

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

About the Instructors

Sally Brown, PhD is a Research Associate Professor, Ecosystem Science Division, College of Forest Resources, University of Washington in Seattle. Sally has done other projects for CREF including as one of the editors of the Compost & Climate Connection.

Andrew Carpenter, founder of Northern Tilth, is a certified soil scientist, certified crop advisor and certified nutrient management planning specialist. Andrew has recently joined the CREF Board of Trustees.