

# SOIL SCIENTIST



*Dig into earthy problems.*

# SOIL SCIENTIST

*Dig into earthy problems.*

**S**oil scientists map and classify soils and provide interpretations for land planners and managers. They conduct research on soil degradation or erosion, or on movement of substances such as nutrients and pesticides through the soil profile. Sometimes they identify problems such as wetness and erosion that limit soil use. Often they write soil descriptions and prepare maps and information about soils.

Universities, private industries, USDA agencies, chemical companies, state and county governments, and environmental consulting firms all hire soil scientists.

To be a soil scientist you need a college degree in soil science or a related biological, physical, or earth science. People who become soil scientists usually like working out-of-doors and studying the sciences, especially physics, chemistry, geology, environmental science, and biology.

In high school take college preparatory courses in [physics](#), [biology](#), [mathematics](#), and [chemistry](#). [Communications courses](#) are also helpful. Take courses in [earth science](#), [environmental science](#), [agriculture](#), or [geology](#) if they are offered. Try to get practical experience in these areas.



Photos: Kathryn elsesser-Luba, U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service

**USDA**

**Living Science**

Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Careers

Produced through a cooperative agreement between USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service and Purdue University.

© 2009 - Purdue University is an equal opportunity/equal access institution.