**BIOL 112 Lab Questions – 8 – Plant Nutrition and Soils**

1. Determine soil texture by hand and by fractionation using the instructions on the flow chart and on the PowerPoint slides. Record your texture. What are the implications of your soil texture for soil fertility? What does your texture tell you about your parent material?
2. Examine soil microorganisms in a drop of soil solution from the class sample. Describe what you see. What are some of the implications for soil fertility and plant health?
3. What do you think about the interactions between topography, erosion and leaching? Do a little web research and THINK.
4. What can, and what *CAN’T* you tell from the data shown on the PowerPoint slide?
5. Extra credit: putz around on the USDA’s soils website: <http://soils.usda.gov/education/resources/college/index.html>. Summarize what you find most interesting on the site.
6. Write a brief overview of these activities, and evaluate whether they were helpful to you in understanding plant nutrition and soils.