

Schnieders, Adam [DNR]

From: Brandy Case Haub [brandycasehaub@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 7:53 PM
To: Schnieders, Adam [DNR]
Subject: Topsoil requirement--please support the 4" rule!

Mr. Schneiders~

My name is Brandy Case Haub and I am a resident and homeowner in West Des Moines. I have recently learned about the General Permit Number 2 rule that requires developers and home contractors to replace 4" of topsoil onto non-paved areas after building is complete.

My husband and I built our home three years ago in West Des Moines. It was our first time building a home, and we trusted our general contractor to make the right decisions pertaining to the different types of work subcontracted to get the home built. We have since learned in a very hard way that all the topsoil taken to clear the area for building was never replaced, and both sod and concrete (driveway and sidewalks) were laid down onto extremely compacted, clay soil.

As a result of the topsoil being taken, our driveway is falling as water manages to rush underneath and hollow out the space below the concrete, and will need to be replaced in the very near future. Our sod looked fine for a few months and then began dying fast. We aerate and overseed every fall but still can't seem to get grass to grow appropriately. We are now obtaining quotes from landscapers to do soil quality restoration on our entire lawn just to add good quality topsoil and compost back onto our land so that grass can grow. The first quote we got back tells us that this will cost thousands of dollars. We don't have much choice if we want to have a lawn, so we are preparing to pay this.

It's a shame that only three years into a brand new house we are dealing with these issues. I look forward to having a better yard thanks to soil quality restoration, and am especially eager to see the water actually soak into the ground with this added topsoil there, rather than running off into the street and public areas. But I regret that all of these issues could have been avoided if our contractor and his hired subcontractors had replaced the topsoil on our land rather than hauling it away and leaving compacted clay behind.

Please continue to support the 4" topsoil rule in General Permit Number 2-- in the long run it saves homeowners MUCH of their money to have that topsoil that was originally there, stay there.

Thank you,
Brandy Case Haub
West Des Moines, IA

Schnieders, Adam [DNR]

From: Cruse, Richard M [AGRON] [rmc@iastate.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2014 9:25 PM
To: Schnieders, Adam [DNR]
Subject: DNR Stormwater General Permit Number 2

Hi Adam

I was asked my opinion about the potential change in the IDNR Stormwater General Permit Number 2. My thoughts follow. It is important to protect the soil and water resources in the State of Iowa. I am aware that developers in Iowa want to remove the new four inch topsoil requirement on construction sites. I support the four inch topsoil and compaction minimization requirements that currently exist in the Iowa DNR Stormwater General Permit Number 2. Topsoil is important for aesthetic, environmental and economic reasons. It contains a much better rooting environment for lawns and yields much better growth than subsoil, with or without fertilizer applications. Organic matter found in topsoil soil helps absorb and retain water and by retaining water reduces loss of water soluble lawn care products such as nitrogen in leaching and runoff water. It is important that four inches of topsoil soil be replaced uniformly across a development site especially in lawns, which in itself will temporarily store about two inches of water. It is also important that subsurface soils be tilled prior to adding topsoil. Both the tillage and topsoil additions help rainwater and runoff from buildings infiltrate into the soil and be retained rather than flow into the streets and down the storm sewer and into local streams. I understand there is an investment associated with this practice, but there is a significant cost associated with applied lawn care materials that escape to surface water. Either the buyer/developer invests in a quality soil base that improves the private property or the tax payer cost for surface water cleanup will increase.

Current urban development practices consist of stripping the topsoil from the surface of developments, installing infrastructure such as sewers and streets, and then building construction. A recent Iowa State University and Natural Resources Conservation Study in Ankeny, Iowa found that as a result of more modern development practices urban soils are becoming more and more compacted and have very little organic matter to help absorb and store rainfall and support plant growth. It is important from a water protection and more sustainable lawn perspective that at least four inches of topsoil be replaced on development sites and that subsurface soils be tilled or ripped prior to adding topsoil.

Thanks for your consideration.

Richard M. Cruse

Schnieders, Adam [DNR]

From: Rita Reed [rjr1248@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 10:00 AM
To: Schnieders, Adam [DNR]; zachary.deyoung@ia.nacdnet.net
Subject: Top Soil Issues

My name is Jerry Reed and I bought a home at 6708 Three Lakes Parkway, Des Moines, IA.....

Having lived in Iowa most of my life, I have always bragged about Iowa's Soil; however, after moving to our new home, I was disappointed to find that the yard has almost no top soil. I have attempted to grow grass and plants but have had poor results. The ground is so compacted that I can not even hand dig a hole to plant my trees or shrubs.....! I have learned that the Three Lakes Parkway subdivision has been severely compromised due to the land being stripped of its top soil. I have sort intervention through the Easter Lake Conservation Project and even after they worked on the soil, I have had to go back and purchase more top soil and seed areas that do not grow. Not only is this a problem I have experienced personally, it is a problem that has affected a large section of the Easter Lake area.

I believe when contractors build new subdivisions they should be required to leave at least 4" of top soil for the preservation of our yards and to reduce costly run off.

Sincerely,

Jerry L. Reed
913-856-4729

Schnieders, Adam [DNR]

From: dennis mcgettrick [dkmcgettrick57@q.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 4:18 PM
To: Schnieders, Adam [DNR]
Subject: Top Soil

Dear Mr. Schnieder,

As a home owner for many years and couldn't believe contractors not putting the top soil back after building. Rolling grass over clay like they have with our yard is inexcusable. During hot weather it forces you to fertilize at least twice a year and continually water which clay won't absorb. The contractors take the top soil and make a profit leaving the home owner with poor soil. Please leave the soil requirements of at least 4". Thanks,

Dennis & Karen McGettrick
5307 SE 32nd St.
Des Moines, IA 50320

Conference code: 4510673319#

Schnieders, Adam [DNR]

From: nequam@mediacombb.net
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2014 7:22 AM
To: Schnieders, Adam [DNR]
Subject: NPDES General Permit No. 2 (the 4" topsoil rule)

We are writing to comment on NPDES General Permit No. 2 (the "4 inch topsoil rule") that is under consideration by the DNR.

We believe that 4 inches of topsoil should be maintained on building sites. We have some experience with situations in which that has not been done, as we built a home on a site where there was no topsoil, and the battle to create soil continued for the seven years that we lived in that home. Having an attractive yard – let alone a productive garden – an ongoing struggle. Our subsoil was very clayey; hot weather turned it into something resembling concrete. We know now, though we didn't then, that part of the problem was run-off – our soil was simply a sluice when it rained.

We understand some developers have concerns about setting topsoil aside, and then returning it to the site post-construction, but believe that this strategy is already used by many, and should be routine for all.

Many thanks for listening --
Lee and Susan Eberly
Iowa City, IA 52245

Schnieders, Adam [DNR]

From: Morgan Masters [scihawk@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, June 13, 2014 11:35 AM
To: Schnieders, Adam [DNR]
Cc: abryant@ankenyiowa.gov; polaris42@gmail.com
Subject: Keep minimum 4 inches of topsoil

Mr. Schneiders,

I am a current member of the Ankeny stormwater committee, science educator and homeowner in Ankeny. I believe returning a minimum of 4" of topsoil following new home construction should be a priority.

I can attest personally to the problems, costs and hardships associated with NOT providing adequate topsoil. Individual homeowners have an extremely difficult time maintaining an average lawn even when sod is laid following construction. In areas such as where I live sod is laid directly on top of the clay layer left behind after the original topsoil layer was removed. The compaction of soil (largely clay) due to the construction leaves the lawn areas nearly nonporous and very poor for plant growth. Many homes in my area of the city have been left with lawns comparable putting sod on top of hard almost concrete type soil.

Landscaping of grass, bushes and trees are difficult to establish as well as costly as extra fertilizers and additives such as gypsum, lime etc. are necessary for nurturing the soil for growth. This in turn raises the possibilities of these nutrients moving into nearby waters our sources. Having a reasonable layer of topsoil will reduce the need for costs associated with lawn establishment, care and repair. This will provide healthier established lawns that will in turn provide a reduction in water runoff, more infiltration of stormwater and thus improved water quality.

Simply put a minimum 4" of topsoil is needed to provide the homeowner the opportunity to establish an average lawn without the burden of additional costs. I strongly urge you to support the decision to keep this minimum amount of topsoil.

Sincerely,

Morgan Masters
4915 NW 7th Street
Ankeny, Iowa. 50023
"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."

Anonymous

Schnieders, Adam [DNR]

From: Sauer, Pat [PSauer@iamu.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 12:24 PM
To: Schnieders, Adam [DNR]
Subject: FW: 4" topsoil replacement requirement

Adam:

I received this message meant to be forwarded to you.

Pat

Pat Sauer, CPESC, CPSS

director Iowa stormwater education program
Iowa association of municipal utilities
1735 NE 70th Ave.
Ankeny, IA 50021
515-289-1999 (o)
515-210-6619 (c)
515-289-2499 (fax)

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has."
mm

Upcoming training IowaStormwater.org

Stormwater Design Webinars: April-November 2014

Rainscaping Iowa: Stormwater Green Infrastructure Webinars: Rain Gardens, biocells, Bioswales, Native Landscaping,

Soil Quality Restoration: June-July, 2014

From: Scott Peterson [<mailto:speterson.mvia@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 12:02 PM

To: Sauer, Pat

Subject: 4" topsoil replacement requirement

Pat:

I am writing to offer my opinion as to what is being proposed. It is incredibly short-sighted for the state to be even thinking about eliminating the 4" topsoil replacement requirement. Iowa has significant water quality issues without a small special interest group, apparently with the backing of the governor, setting course to aggravate this very real and long-term problem.

Those pushing for this apparently are self-serving and selfish. What a shame and what a statement about our regulatory process.

Please forward this to **Adam Schneiders at IDNR**.

Thanks in advance.

Scott Peterson

Schnieders, Adam [DNR]

From: Ben Gleason [gleason_ben@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 8:33 PM
To: Schnieders, Adam [DNR]
Subject: 4" top soil requirements

Mr. Schnieders,

I would like to comment on the 4" top soil requirements being considered by the EO80 stakeholder group. I believe these requirements are absolutely necessary to protect home buyers and Iowa's water quality. Four inches is a compromise and I believe it is inadequate for soil fertility and water infiltration. I would prefer that the requirement be 12 inches or more but am willing to compromise on the minimal amount of four inches. My house was built in 1975 and I have barely 12 inches of top soil in the areas of my yard that I have dug holes. I have heard horror stories from my friends who can't establish sod despite spending hundreds if not thousands of dollars on watering. They also have trees that die soon after planting despite watering. Home buyers do not check the depth of top soil at new houses. They trust the home builder and rely on the tradition of Iowa's rich soils. There are too many home buyers getting shafted by home builders and developers. The top soil requirements will also improve the infiltration of water, reducing runoff and saving watering costs. Without adequate topsoil, the compacted subsoils act like concrete and increase runoff causing flooding and water quality problems. Plants struggle to establish adequate root systems in these soils, increasing runoff problems.

Thank you for considering these comments. I hope the stakeholders group will realize this a reasonable compromise for Iowa's home buyers and water quality and quantity.

Sincerely,

Ben Gleason
1601 NW 10th St
Ankeny, IA 50023

Schnieders, Adam [DNR]

From: David and Judy Thayer [djthayer@mchsi.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 11:42 AM
To: Schnieders, Adam [DNR]
Subject: 4" of topsoil

Dear Mr. Schneiders,

We live in a newish subdivision, about 25 years old. We have watched other subdivisions go up around us. Most often most of the topsoil is shoved to the side after which it disappears sometime during construction. Sod is later laid on top of compacted clay and gravel. I don't have a lot of truck with lawns but, if there is to be any chance of water soaking in and being held, topsoil needs to be preserved and left on site instead of being hauled away for sale or use elsewhere.

I recognize that changing the process *may* mean higher costs for the contractors/developers, but so far as I am concerned that is part of the cost of having a new house.

Judith Thayer
955 Mesquite Dr.
Coralville IA 52241
319-337-2052

Schnieders, Adam [DNR]

From: Frossfamilydm [frossfamilydm@msn.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 8:29 PM
To: Schnieders, Adam [DNR]
Subject: 4" topsoil requirement

My name is Tom Fross and I am a resident of Des Moines. I've heard there is talk of reducing the requirement for 4" of topsoil on new construction. I felt I needed to voice my strong opposition to removing this requirement. This requirement is for the good of all residents. It helps to mediate runoff during rains, reducing costs to everyone in the long run. It is very short sighted to allow a few profit hungry developers to derail conservation efforts that are designed to improve life in Iowa. We already have a bad reputation in the world because of our ground water pollution, this is just another step in the wrong direction. Please help us to keep this requirement in place, it is important to all Iowans.

Sent from my iPad

Susan Eberly
1840 Friendship Street
Iowa City, IA 52245-4548
negaum@mediacombb.net
319-339-8349

We are writing to comment on NPDES General Permit No. 2 (the "4 inch topsoil rule") that is under consideration by the DNR.

We believe that 4 inches of topsoil should be maintained on building sites. We have some experience with situations in which that has not been done, as we built a home on a site where there was no topsoil, and the battle to create soil continued for the seven years that we lived in that home. Having an attractive yard – let alone a productive garden – an ongoing struggle. Our subsoil was very clayey; hot weather turned it into something resembling concrete. We know now, though we didn't then, that part of the problem was run-off – our soil was simply a sluice when it rained.

We understand some developers have concerns about setting topsoil aside, and then returning it to the site post-construction, but believe that this strategy is already used by many, and should be routine for all.

Thanks for listening!
Lee and Susan Eberly

Schnieders, Adam [DNR]

From: garryklein@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, June 21, 2014 5:44 AM
To: Schnieders, Adam [DNR]
Subject: NPDES General Permit No. 2,

I support the topsoil provision of NPDES General Permit No. 2, a rule to preserve 4" of topsoil at construction sites.

When an undeveloped area is changed to urban, commercial, or industrial use, natural cover is removed and the chance of erosion problems increases. Large tracts of prime farmland are stripped of topsoil, the topsoil is stockpiled, sold and a thin layer is applied before putting sod on top.

Currently, the packed clay under the thin layer of topsoil on this developed land allows for very little water to infiltrate. Lawns without topsoil under the sod require constant care and watering. Watering is irresponsible in drought conditions.

We need to retain 4" of healthy soil which will better enable new homeowners to establish healthy landscapes (lawn, gardens, native plantings, trees and shrubs) as well as improving on- site stormwater retention, lessen runoff and soil erosion, and improve water quality on any new development.

Controlling erosion and water quality and developing procedures to manage construction sites to reduce off-site water pollution are major concerns.

I urge you to support the topsoil provision of NPDES General Permit No. 2, a rule to preserve 4" of topsoil at construction sites.

Sincerely,

Garry Klein

628 2nd Ave.

Iowa City, IA 52245

Sent from my iPad

Schnieders, Adam [DNR]

From: Terry Heller [theller@coe.edu]
Sent: Sunday, June 22, 2014 7:21 AM
To: Schnieders, Adam [DNR]
Subject: four-inch rule

Hello,

I am writing in response to Todd Dorman's Cedar Rapids Gazette columns regarding reconsideration of the rule that four inches of top-soil be spread over the open areas of new developments, the most recent of which appeared on 22 June 2014. While I agree that the current rule might be modified to make it easier to manage, I also believe that any changes should rigorously maintain the goals of the current rule -- to reduce and control run-off for a variety of benefits.

I urge you to resist efforts to scrap the rule by giving developers full discretion to decide how to leave newly or re-developed properties.

Terry Heller
Cedar Rapids

Schnieders, Adam [DNR]

From: John Burke [johnburke@imonmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, June 21, 2014 10:04 PM
To: Schnieders, Adam [DNR]
Subject: FW: 4 inches of topsoil

I support the continuation of the requirement of developers and builders (who hold a required stormwater general permit No 2) to put four inches of top soil back on the finished construction site. Not only does this reduce potential run-off concerns, but I do not believe that developers should be able to pass on hidden costs (of having to replace top soil to an appropriate depth) to buyers who are purchasing these properties.

Thank you,

John Burke
421 42nd St NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Schnieders, Adam [DNR]

From: Clarke, Michael [mclarke@ci.davenport.ia.us]
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2014 3:00 PM
To: Schnieders, Adam [DNR]
Subject: Iowa Top Soil Rule

Adam,

I am strongly in favor of some rule for requiring top soil. Perhaps a compromise could involve requiring x cubic yards of top soil spread evenly with x based on the square footage of the area with an average depth of 4".

Mike

Michael F. Clarke
Director of Public Works
Davenport, Iowa
(563) 326-7734

Schnieders, Adam [DNR]

From: Martha Troxel [CRPrairie1@imonmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2014 10:01 AM
To: Schnieders, Adam [DNR]
Subject: 4 inch topsoil rule

Dear Mr. Schnieders,
I am writing to support the proposed 4 inch topsoil rule. It would be a good idea to require 4 inches of topsoil be on individual properties . This is because it would help decrease water runoff and the erosion and flooding that runoff can sometimes cause. It would also help with growing lawns, landscaping plants, and gardens.
Sincerely,
Martha Troxel, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Schnieders, Adam [DNR]

From: Stephanie S [stephmed@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2014 6:57 PM
To: Schnieders, Adam [DNR]
Subject: Topsoil Rule

Hi Adam,

I am a concerned home owner who would like to say a few words about my opinion on scrapping the top soil rule. Although my home was built in the 1960s, I have still experienced first hand how the bulldozing of top soil on new property can effect new home owners. When my parents built their house they experienced the negative impact this has on people. Our yard was left with nothing but hard clay that refused to grow anything. Trying to save a little money, my parents decided not to sod the entire yard and plant grass seed instead. This was before they knew that the builder would take off the fertile topsoil and send it somewhere to do what we assume is sell it for a profit. My dad struggled for 2 years to get grass to grow in that lot. It's so sad that we let money dictate and justify basically stealing from a home owner. I really hope that this does not get changed, as I think it's important we protect Iowa's rich topsoil. Anyway, thank you for reading and I hope you have a great day!

Thank you,
Stephanie

Schnieders, Adam [DNR]

From: Jeff Reihle [jgr1257@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 7:25 AM
To: Schnieders, Adam [DNR]
Subject: Topsoil Rule Chagnes

I support retaining the current rule requiring 4" of topsoil in building developments.

Any effort to reduce or eliminate this requirement is due to greed and will be detrimental to the public.

Sincerely,

Jeff Reihle
Marion, Ia

Schnieders, Adam [DNR]

From: Reiland, Jeff [Jeff.Reiland@pioneer.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 1:38 PM
To: Schnieders, Adam [DNR]
Subject: Changes to GP#2 Top Soil requirement

Dear Mr. Adam Schnieders;

Please keep the 4" top soil replacement standard.

The frustration and expense homeowners go through is significant, not to mention the damage done to the environment - from poorly managed fertilizer and weed control measures, increased erosion from high-speed runoff, to sediments in our rivers and streams. Also serious economic damage is done through increase taxes for repairs and maintenance of storm water systems, loss of habitat impacting natural resource tourism and fishing revenues, and damage to properties from flooding, when topsoil/organic matter is removed and development sites are left with exposed compacted clay. Again, please keep the 4" top soil replacement standard in General Permit #2.

Thank you for your time,

Jeff Reiland

"A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in." -Greek Proverb

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Schnieders, Adam [DNR]

From: Mark Olson [polaris42@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 1:55 PM
To: Schnieders, Adam [DNR]
Cc: Amy Bryant
Subject: Re: 4inch top soil, new construction restoration

Mr. Schnieders,
Please pass on my comments below concerning the 4" top soil restoration regulation to the necessary committees for their consideration.
Thanks, Mark Olson

Re: 4 inch Top soil restoration regulation

I am a "new construction" home owner in a new development (2011) in Ankeny, Iowa. I was elated for all future new construction homeowners when I heard the wonderful news that contractors would be required to return 4" of topsoil to the yards of finished homes. Now, I hear that rule may be changed again, resulting in these future new construction homeowners suffering the consequences of compacted clay.

I have first hand experience with the problems that result from a yard that has none or very little top soil. But, this is about more than losing sod, trees, landscaping maintenance costs, hours of yard work, gallons of treated water used for irrigation lost to evaporation, erosion and pollution of retention ponds and streams from excessive runoff, and lost opportunity to enjoy one's new yard.

This is about Iowa's heritage and our responsibility to protect, preserve and use wisely our vast natural renewable and non-renewable resources. Settlers came here in 1833 to become Iowans and to create a new life from Iowa's water, soil, and climate. A plot of 160 acres farmland was available for purchase from the U.S. government for \$200 at that time. About 150,000 settlers recognized the bargain and moved into the new territory, before we became a state in 1846. These new Iowans were proud to become citizens of Iowa and stewards of the land.

But today, we've lost the clean water, the fertile topsoil, and yes, we're are changing the climate. Not in the name of progress, but because many of us said, "oh, I didn't realize that would cause that, I didn't know" But, now we all know! And now, we all should care. And now, we all should act responsibly and do what is right; to correct the mistakes of the past, and prevent the further destruction of our great state.

And yes it may cost more, it may be more work, it may be inconvenient, but it is the right thing to do. And we will all share the cost; whether we act now or do nothing. There is no short term gain any more by passing it on to the next owner, to the next person downstream, to the next government agency that has "more resources", or to the next generation. We now, all know the facts and the inevitable results, starting yesterday and continuing into the future, until we change our false reasoning for our actions.

It is now time for us all; to step up and do our part with our influence, our abilities, our time, our money, our knowledge, and our energy; to do the responsible, to correct our past practices, to become good stewards of the land again, as citizens of Iowa.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to be heard.

Mark Olson
Retired Middle School Educator
5009 NW 7th St.
Ankeny, Iowa.

Schnieders, Adam [DNR]

From: gkuhl@mchsi.com
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 11:14 PM
To: Schnieders, Adam [DNR]
Cc: Ryan Heiar
Subject: 4 inehes of topsoil proposal

Dear Adam,

I am writing you as the newly appointed Mayor of North Liberty. Although this issue has not been presented to our Council, I feel confident that many members would oppose lowering the topsoil requirement below 4 inches. My personal opinion is that the minimum amount should be six inches. It is my understanding that our city staff have received citizen complaints about the poor quality of soil left in their newly built homes--located where some of the best topsoil in the world lies.

I also believe that our council members would oppose the chairman of your group writing minutes that coincide with his personal opinions, and that ultimately do not reflect the proceedings of the committee.

What is the legal right of contractors and others to remove topsoil from an area that they do not own? The contractor is only hired to work on the area, and he has no right to remove any of the contents of the area, including topsoil. The contractor makes a profit, and the soil shows up at a Walmart or a landscaping firm, leaving the rightful owner with "junk". What case law is there that might govern this proposal?

Some of your members obviously know that topsoil is one of Iowa's most precious resources, and I commend them for their stance. Those who think that it is there to be plundered for profit, obviously do not understand the rich heritage passed down from previous generations.

Thank you for allowing me to comment, and feel free to pass my concerns and opinions on to your staff and committee members.

Sincerely,

Gerald L. Kuhl,
Mayor
North Liberty, Iowa.

Schnieders, Adam [DNR]

From: Amy Bryant [ABryant@AnkenyIowa.gov]
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2014 11:29 AM
To: Schnieders, Adam [DNR]
Subject: FW: Top soil requirements

Hi, Adam,

Here is a public comment on the four-inch topsoil rule.

bringing it all together

Amy Bryant
Environmental Engineer, P.E.
Public Works - Engineering
City of Ankeny
220 W 1st St
Ankeny, IA 50023-1751
Ph 515-963-3542
Fx 515-963-3535
www.ankenyiowa.gov



From: DAVID MULHOLLAND [<mailto:davemul1@msn.com>]
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2014 4:19 PM
To: Amy Bryant
Subject: Top soil requirements

Amy,

The following are my comments on the top soil requirements:

I have personally dealt with the problems and frustrations of not having adequate top soil on my property. The establishment of a healthy stand of grass and maintaining tree health have been difficult at my property for several years. I have tried for many years to combat the problem on my own and I have retained the services of a lawn care company to help. I've replaced a tree which was only planted a few years ago which I believe was caused by the high clay content of my soil. Several areas of my yard have also have bare spots or poor grass which have been present for years.

I believe the lack of top soil, relatively large deposits of clay and over compaction are creating problems in my yard and in many of the newer properties in Ankeny. Placing a layer of top soil will help with grass growth, trees and shrubs, allow more infiltration of water into the soil so as to reduce runoff, and reduce the conveyance of siltation and pollutants downstream. I believe and I know for myself I would rather pay the upfront costs to install a layer of top soil rather than deal with the costs and frustrations after I have purchased a property.

I encourage the retention of the 4 inch top soil requirement.

Dave Mulholland
5203 SW Somersby Drive
Ankeny, Iowa 50023