

## Stakeholders gather to explore various soil health solutions

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Conservation and agricultural professionals from the public and private sectors gathered recently at the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus to discuss soil health solutions at the Minnesota Office for Soil Health's (MOSH) first stakeholder forum.

"We are investing our money, time, and energy into this effort to further develop expertise on soil health, which can be shared with Minnesotans across our state's diverse landscape," said BWSR Executive Director John Jaschke said. The Minnesota Office for Soil Health is a collaborative program created in 2017 by BWSR in partnership with the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center (WRC), a department housed in the College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS). MOSH strives to build local expertise to promote soil health and water conservation by developing the knowledge, skills, and abilities of local conservationists to promote sustainable soil and land management.

"Improving soil health will benefit farm profitability and the environment," said Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Commissioner Thom Peterson. "The MDA fully supports the Office for Soil Health's commitment to increase awareness of these benefits and to promote the importance of soil health."

Forum attendees explored the development of a state Soil Health Action Plan and engaged in small-group discussions on a range of soil health issues.

## MDA finds ...

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- Save the plant material for testing. Fresh material can be saved in a plastic bag in the refrigerator, and dry material can be stored in a paper bag at room temperature. It is best to keep the whole plant including leaves and flowers.

Because of the impacts it can have to Minnesota's crops, Palmer amaranth is listed as a Prohibited Weed Seed and is on Minnesota's Prohibited Noxious Weed Eradicate List. All above and below ground parts of the plant must be destroyed. Transportation, propagation or sale of this plant is prohibited.

The invasive weed is native to the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico. It has been found in over half of the states, including Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

For more information, visit, <https://blog-crop-news.extension.umn.edu/2018/11/take-proactive-approach-to-managing.html>



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