



SOIL CONSERVATION  
COUNCIL OF CANADA

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CONSERVATION DES SOLS

# HEY CANADA!

It's time to #SoilYourUndies...  
in the name of soil conservation

**Do your own fun soil science experiment to see how healthy your soil is and share your experiences @SoilCouncil.**

Anyone can investigate biological activity in farm fields or backyard gardens. Bury a pair of 100 per cent white cotton underwear in topsoil for about two months and then check the level of decomposition.

If there is not much left of the underwear you have good biological activity, which indicates healthy soil. These same soil organisms can break down plant materials in much the same way.

**To make a good on-farm comparison:**

- Test similar soil types under different rotations and tillage management
- Keep track of each pair by writing an identifying number on the waistband
- Be sure to bury all underwear being compared on the same day and for the same amount of time.



## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- New pair of while 100% cotton briefs (no dyes or polyester blends).
- Shovel
- Marker Flag

1. Dig a narrow trench and bury the underwear in the top six inches of soil.
2. Leave the waistband showing a little and mark the place with a flag so you will be able to find it again.
3. Leave the underwear buried for about two months.
4. Dig it up carefully and wash it in a bucket of water to remove the soil.