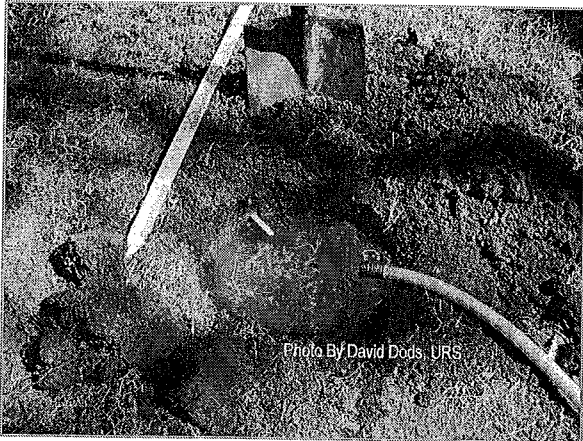


HOW TO CONDUCT A PERK TEST



STEPS:

1. Dig 8" diameter and 8" deep hole with a trowel.
2. Fill hole with water and let saturate for an hour.
3. Refill Hole and use pencil jabbed in side of hole to mark top of water level.
4. Use ruler to measure distance from the pencil to top of water. Visit the hole every hour or so until it drains completely. Measure it each time but only use one measurement and time for the calculation, preferably the last measurement.
5. Calculate how much water will infiltrates in inches per hour. . The goal is a Rain Garden that will drain in 24 hours.

_____ Inches/ _____ time (in hours) = _____ Inches/hr.

Example:

0.5 inches/ 90 minutes (convert 90 minutes to 1.5 hr) = 0.33 inches per hour

6. Use perk test results to select a depth for the rain garden that will drain in 24 hours.

If your garden drains 0.33 inches per hour, in 24 hours it will drain 7.92 inches. So your rain garden should not exceed 8 inches deep.

Photo Source: Rusty Schmidt, Washington Soil and Water Conservation District, Minnesota, Wisconsin.