



## Litter Bag

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Things to Remember

Moisture content is determined by weighing the field-fresh sample, followed by drying the soil in a forced-air oven and then reweighing. The loss in weight (water) is expressed as a percentage of oven dried weight. Organic matter in some soils may be decomposed at 1050C.

### Materials

1. Brown paper (lunch) bag.
2. Drying oven.
3. Balance.
4. Desiccator.

### Procedure

Weigh paper bag to 0.01 g accuracy (W1 ).

Obtain litter from a measured square of the forest floor (clipboard size) and transfer to the paper bag.

Weigh paper bag plus litter to 0.01 g accuracy (W2 ).

Place bag plus litter in oven at 1050C. Dry to constant weight (24 hours).

Cool in desiccator for 30 minutes. Weigh to an accuracy of 0.01 g (W3 ).

**Calculations**

Oven dry soil (g) = W3 - W1

Moisture (g) = W2 - W3

Water content (% by weight) =  $\frac{\text{moisture (g)}}{\text{oven dried soil (g)}} \times 100$

Report results to three significant figures.