DIRTY CORONAVIRUS

Soil & Sand Inclusions
Jane Hartman, Magless 2021

Soil = Minerals + Organics
Sand = Minerals

On a whim, I decided to see what happens if you used dirt as an inclusion. I knew it would be interesting, but I was pretty sure it would be ugly. To my utter delight, I ended up with an affect that was really pleasing:

So, what's going on here. First, we have to understand what soil is.

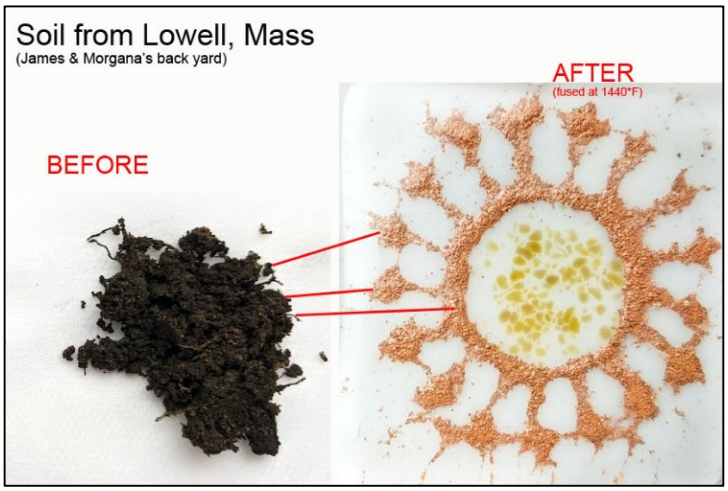
Soil is made up of organic material (dead leaf bits, worm poop, etc.)

AND

Tiny grains of minerals.

The organics in the soil burn away completely when fused, leaving just the minerals.

The kinds of minerals can vary, but are commonly clay and mica minerals (clay being broken down mica). Now these mica minerals are basically the same mica that we buy in a jar to use as inclusions



This is soil from Lowell, Mass. (my son's back yard). Notice how dark and rich it looks.

I used a standard glass powder sifter (aka Ikea tea strainer) and sifted a very light layer of soil on a base of white glass

I then used tools (brush and rubber tipped tool) to shaped the soil into a coronavirus shape

I added a sprinkling of fine sienna frit in the center (for RNA)

Capped it with clear Tekta

Fused it at just short of full fusing temperatures. Here are the results: We went from black, black soil to this gorgeous coppery almost shiny color.

[see *next page*]

I also tried soil from Rockville to see if I would see any differences in the minerals (different Geology). The difference was subtle. Lastly, I tried sand from California. No organics, so it didn't' change much with fusing, but you can see the difference in minerals. – varied colored grains, unlike the quartz sand we get here on the East Coast beeches.