Potpourri

Ode to the Soil

when looking at the soil,
keep in mind,
Sanitarians should not be color blind:

Solid BROWN and RED are the best,
you should pass the old perc test.

Beware of subsoil that is too dark,
though BLACK on top may be a lark;

When the hue is sort of YELLOW,
this soil may be a questionable fellow;

If you find the streaks of gray,
they tell you to stay away

If you think this is just so much mush;
I hope it is your toilet that won’t flush!!

Wallace Phillips (deceased), soil scientist, Fayetteville, AR.

Editor’s Note: Sanitary Sam and friends were introduced by the author to readers of Soil Survey Horizons in Vol. 26(3):34–36, Fall 1985.