

SOIL TESTING

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why?

Soil testing is important for determining proper applications of fertilizer and lime. Applying the right amount can help save money, ensure proper plant growth, and protect the environment.

What?

Soil can be tested for pH, macronutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, and an assortment of micronutrients. What you intend to grow in the soil will help determine what test you need.

When?

Testing should be completed every 1-3 years for lawns and gardens, every year for pastures, and each growing season for commercial crops. Test as often as necessary and especially before applying any soil amendments such as lime.

How?

Testing is easy! Simply collect the recommended number of samples for your area, mix together, bag it up, and send it off! Results are available within two weeks. If you have questions, contact your local extension agent for help.

PASTURES & CROPS

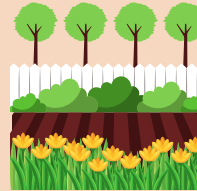
LAWNS & GARDENS

CORRECT FORM



Different grasses require different tests. Make sure you are using the appropriate form for Bahia or Bermuda pastures. Agronomic crops, cool season forages, and others will require a 'Producer' test form.

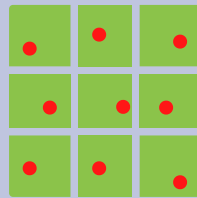
CORRECT FORM



Use the 'Landscape & Vegetable Garden Test Form' when sampling lawns, ornamental plants, fruit trees and home vegetable gardens.

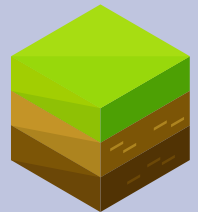
REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLING

Sampling large acreage or planning to plant different crops? Make sure you are submitting a sample for each plot. Take a random distribution of soil from the plot and mix together to get one average result.



SAMPLING

Collect soil from 10-15 different spots and mix together. Do not sample unusual areas like wet spots. Do not sample problem areas separate from non problem areas (back vs. front yard). Sample the upper 2-4 inches for lawns and upper 6 inches for all other plants.



TEST & CROP CODES

You can find the appropriate test and crop codes for your sample on the back of the submission form. Choosing the right crop code and appropriate test code will ensure you get the best recommendations for your soil.



TESTING

In most cases, the soil fertility test (pH + nutrients) is recommended. A simple pH test will only identify the lime requirement, while a fertility test also provides fertilizer recommendations to replace the missing nutrients needed for optimum plant health.



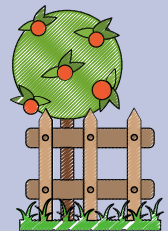
SAMPLING DEPTH

Typically soil samples for pastures and cropland are taken 4-6 inches deep in the soil. Taking samples too deep or too shallow in the soil can give inaccurate results and lead to poor recommendations.



CROP CODES

Select one or more crop codes as appropriate for your sample (with no added costs). When replanting a lawn, selecting all lawn codes may help you determine the lawn type best suited for your soil. For fruit trees that do not have their own code, select the woody ornamental/trees code.



QUESTIONS?

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QUESTIONS?

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