



Send **ONE (1)** soil sample with this information sheet

Includes landscape trees and shrubs

MAIL SOIL TEST REPORT TO **OPTIONAL REFERENCE**

Name _____

Soil Location: County _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Check for \$ _____ enclosed

Phone _____

<p>Please give this sample a name, maximum of 4 letters or numbers. Indicate this name on the soil container and record it here.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 40px; margin: 5px 0;"></div> <p>This name will be on your report to identify the sample area.</p>	<p>Fertilizer Recommendations Requested for: <i>(CHECK ONLY ONE)</i></p> <p>New Lawn / Turf</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (101) Before seeding or sodding</p> <p>Existing Grass</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (102) Home lawn <input type="checkbox"/> (103) School / Industrial Grounds <input type="checkbox"/> (104) Athletic field <input type="checkbox"/> (105) Park / Cemetery <input type="checkbox"/> (106) Golf tee <input type="checkbox"/> (107) Golf fairway <input type="checkbox"/> (108) Golf green</p> <p>Gardens</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (110) Vegetable garden <input type="checkbox"/> (111) Flower garden</p> <p>Fruit</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (112) Tree fruits <input type="checkbox"/> (113) Small fruits <input type="checkbox"/> (114) Blueberries</p> <p>Trees and Shrubs</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (115) Broadleaf <input type="checkbox"/> (116) Evergreen <input type="checkbox"/> (117) Azalea & Rhododendron</p>	<p>For Grass Only</p> <p>Is grass watered regularly?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (1) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> (2) No</p> <p>Are clippings removed?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (1) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> (2) No</p>	<p>Check Tests Requested</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Regular test, \$15.00, includes phosphorus, potassium, pH – lime requirement, total organic matter, and estimated texture.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Excessive salts (soluble salts) \$5</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lead test (requires separate sample) \$15</p> <p>The following tests are only made available to professionals since the interpretation of test results are provided only for limited situations.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sulfur \$4 <input type="checkbox"/> Calcium / Magnesium \$6 <input type="checkbox"/> Nitrate \$5 <input type="checkbox"/> Total organic matter \$4 <input type="checkbox"/> Boron \$6 <input type="checkbox"/> Iron, Zinc, Copper, and Manganese \$10</p>
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The tests provided by the University of Minnesota Soil Testing Laboratory are for the purpose of evaluating the soil fertility and soil pH level (routine test), and/or problems due to excessive salts or fertilizer materials (soluble salt test). Based on these test results and the type of plants to be grown, you will be sent the appropriate fertilizer recommendation that will provide adequate levels of phosphorus and potassium necessary for good plant growth without adverse effects on the environment.

Soil for home lawn, garden, trees and shrubs are not tested for nitrogen because this nutrient is very mobile in soils. Therefore, the nitrogen recommendation is based on plant type requirements and the relative organic matter level in the soil as determined by the laboratory. Trace element tests are not recommended for lawns and gardens because research has shown that adequate amounts are found in most soils of the state. Trace element tests may be useful in some professional operations for special problems.

Problems with plants may be caused by factors other than soil fertility, e.g., disease, insects, insufficient light, soil moisture or compaction, or climatic conditions. An evaluation of soil fertility and pH is an important first step in diagnosing problems. If soil fertility is not found to be a problem, then the other factors affecting plant growth should be evaluated to determine possible causes. Your County Extension Educator can help you if you need further information to diagnose your problem.

HOW TO TAKE A SOIL SAMPLE

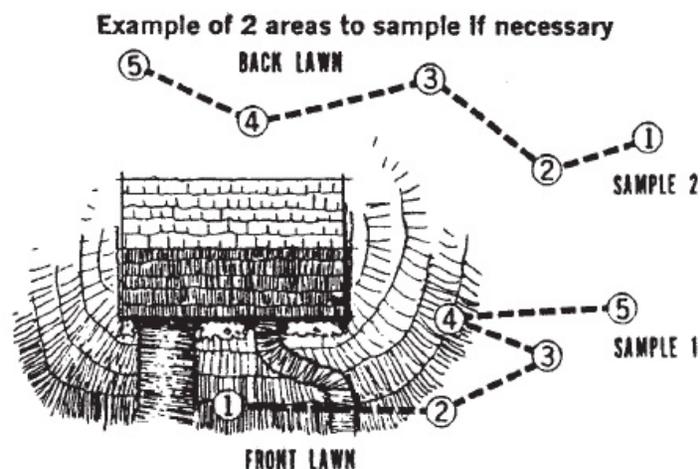
Soil test results can be no better than the sample. Therefore, proper collection of the soil sample is extremely important. To obtain a good soil sample, follow the directions below.

WHEN

Soil samples may be taken at any time during the year when soil conditions permit. It usually takes the laboratory three to five days to process your samples.

WHERE

- If the area is fairly level and the soil appears to be uniform, collect one composite (mixed) sample.
- If your lawn or garden has large areas which differ in fertility, take one sample from each area. For example, you may want to sample the front lawn and the back lawn separately (see diagram).



- Do not include soil from the lawn area and a garden in the same composite sample.
- Sample separately or avoid trouble spots or small areas such as borders, low spots, near trees or buildings, etc.

HOW

Use a garden trowel, spade, sampling tube or soil auger. Scrape away or discard any surface mat of grass or litter. Sample the lawn or garden area to the sampling depth indicated below.

- 1) existing grass - sample 0-3"
- 2) new grass - sample 0-6"
- 3) gardens - sample 0-6"
- 4) trees/shrubs - sample 0-12"
- 5) lead test - sample only surface 3/4"

- Place the soil sample in a clean bucket or pan. Repeat sampling in five (5) scattered spots within the chosen area. Mix soil well to make a composite sample and send about a pint of the sample to the lab. Sample bags are free on request, but any clean container may be used.
- Label the sample container with your name, address and YOUR sample identification (FOUR digits). Fill out the information requested on the other side. Keep a record for yourself of the area represented by the sample.
- **Soluble salts test.** This test should be requested if:
 - 1) "black dirt" has been hauled in and poor growth is observed
 - 2) there is possible damage from salt used on streets and sidewalks or excess application of fertilizer
 - 3) the grass looks burned even when adequate water is present.
 - 4) the soil is poorly drained and located in the south central or western part of the state.
 - 5) for golf greens - since golf greens must be heavily fertilized the salt content should be monitored and taken into consideration when making fertilizer recommendations.

- Lead test. Select only if soil is suspected to be contaminated with lead.

HOW TO SUBMIT SAMPLES

Soil samples can be delivered in person to Room 135 Crops Research Building, University of Minnesota (see map below), or mailed to:

Soil Testing Laboratory
University of Minnesota
1902 Dudley Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

Website: <http://soiltest.coafes.umn.edu>

Phone (612) 625-3101

Enclose a check payable to the University of Minnesota for all services requested. Do not send cash. The University of Minnesota will not be responsible for cash sent through the mail. The sender pays the postage.

