

Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Orange County

Community Campus, 18 Seward Avenue, Suite 300, Middletown, New York 10940-1919
Garden Helpline: 845-343-0664 www.cce.cornell.edu/orange

Home Gardener's Soil pH Test Information Sheet

DO NOT use for Complete Analysis - Contact our office for Soil Nutrient Testing Information. Cost per sample: \$3.00

Date: _____

Name: _____ Daytime Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Please fill in as much of the information as possible (*see sampling instructions on back*).

Sample	Crop to be grown or currently growing <small>(Lawn, Flower Garden, Vegetable Garden, Rhododendron & Azelea, Tree, Shrub)</small>	When & how much limestone and/or sulfur were added	When & how much manure and/& compost were added	What type, when & how much fertilizer was added <small>(e.g. 5-10-5, Miracle-Gro)</small>
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				

List any problems and / or comments about the planting site: _____

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

Cornell Recommendations: _____ Limestone _____ Sulfur

_____ pounds per 100 sq. ft. _____ pounds per 1,000 sq. ft. _____ topdress or broadcast over surface _____ rototill into top 6" of soil

Employee's initials _____ Amount paid _____ Tester's name: _____

Directions For Taking Soil Samples

A Good Sample Means Accurate Results

Materials Needed

A small trowel and clean pail are the only two tools needed to take a soil sample. A special soil sampler is convenient, but not necessary.

How Many Samples Are Needed

In most cases only one sample is needed for a single lawn, garden, flower bed, etc. This holds true as long as the soil texture is the same and previous liming and fertilizing practices have been the same. Where this is not the case or if a problem area exists, then separate samples should be taken from these areas.

How To Take A Sample

There are two important requirements for sampling. First, a uniform slice should be taken to the desired depth (see below); second the same depth and volume of soil should be taken from each spot sampled. When sampling with a small trowel dig a hole to the sampling depth, cut a 1/2 inch thick slice of sod from the face of the hole, and trim both vertical sides of the slice to obtain a strip of soil about one inch wide from top to bottom.

Sample To Proper Depth

Lawns - a sample from the upper 4-6 inches of sod is satisfactory, Thatch and other visible plant residue should be removed.

Home Gardens - Soil samples are ordinarily taken to the tillage depth (rototiller or spading under depth). This depth is usually 6-10 inches. The tillage depth is important since limestone and certain fertilizers are eventually mixed within the entire tilled layer.

Tree and Fruit Crops - Two samples should be taken: 1) a surface soil sample from the 0 to 8 inch depth, and 2) a sub-soil sample from the 8 to 16 inch depth. These should be placed in separate containers and labeled separately, Two samples are more important when establishing new orchards or where problems exist. For routine testing only the surface sample may be necessary.

Ornamental Trees and Shrubs - Follow the same procedure as outlined for Tree and Fruit Crops.

Obtain A Representative Sample

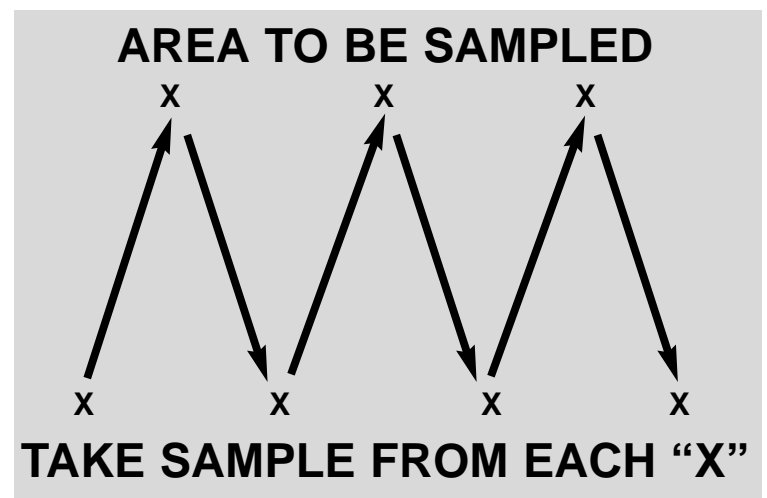
Each sod sample should be a composite consisting of the soil from samples taken randomly at several places taken randomly at several places across the lawn, garden, etc. This should minimize non-uniformity. Sample about 10 locations over the area to make up the composite sample (see diagram). Place each sample into a plastic pail and mix it thoroughly by hand. A quart-size container full of sod is sufficient for testing. Identify each container on the outside, preferably with a marker pen, with a simple code (e.g. # 1. letter A, etc.).

Fill In The Data Form

Please fill in the required data to the best of your knowledge on the reverse side of this form. Bring or mail your sample(s) with the appropriate fee to

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(845) 344-1234

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