

Why Soil Test?

Soil should be analyzed to determine nutrient levels and fertilizer recommendations. Soil nutrient analysis will give precise scientific information on the soil's ability to supply nutrients to plants. This knowledge will allow growers to develop a tailored plan to maximize potential plant growth and minimize input costs.

What a Soil Test Provides?

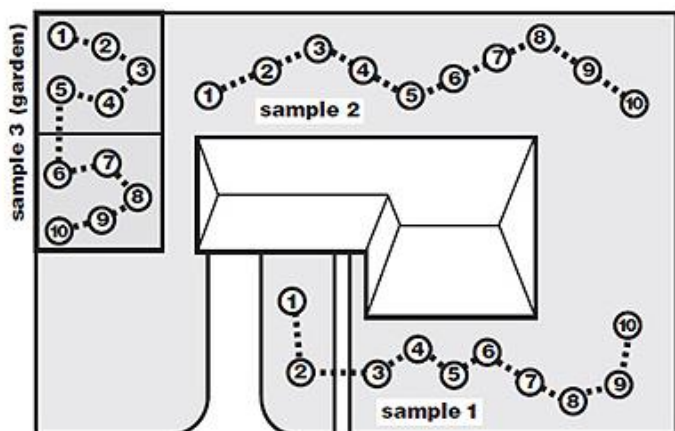
- Soil nutrient content: Organic Matter, Phosphorus, Potassium and pH.
- Recommendation of the type & amount of fertilizer to add.

When to Sample?

You can sample the soil anytime as long as it is not frozen. It is recommended to sample in early spring or late fall to assure that you will have the test results before you need to amend your soil. By sampling at approximately the same time each year, it is easier to compare soil test results with previous results from the same sample sites. It is important to avoid sampling soon after applying fertilizer, as this would only tell you how much you just added and not what your soil really needs! Soil nutrient levels do not vary wildly from year to year so checking every two to four years is sufficient.

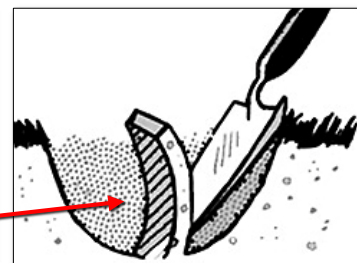
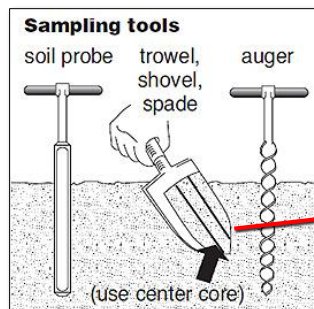
Where to Sample?

- Take samples of soil that are representative of the specific area of interest (lawn / garden).
- This will depend on the overall size of the area.
- Below is a graphic to offer in idea for sampling an area.



How to Sample?

1. From each of the six sample points, remove any overlying mulch, compost or residual plant material. Using a clean soil probe, trowel or shovel collect samples from the top 6 to 7" inches of soil.



If using a trowel or spade, cut a 1" slice and use the center slice as the representative sample.

2. Place the collected soil samples / cores from the six sampling points into a clean plastic container and mix those samples together thoroughly. **Note:** Samples from different areas should not be mixed together.



3. Scoop out two (2) cups of soil and place in a soil sample bag for analysis.



4. Label the bag with the field name, sample number, name. Fill out a sample order form and send in with the sample to the soil lab.
5. Repeat this procedure for each plot sample area / zone.

Questions?
Contact United Soils, Inc.