



# SOIL TESTING

Improve Your Lawn and Garden

*A New Benefit For You  
from the DuPage County Farm Bureau*

**Why a soil test?** Soil in its natural state is rarely fertile enough for the best growth of plants. Usually it is necessary to replenish the earth's store of plant nutrients to obtain the most vigorous lawn, the most abundant and brilliant flowers, the prettiest trees and shrubs, and the greatest yield of fresh veggies.

**What is the best time to test soil?** Proper sampling is important to obtain accurate results. Samples can be taken any time during the warmer months, when soil temperatures are at least 55 degrees. If the soil is too wet to spade, rototill or hoe, it is generally too wet to take a sample. On the other hand, extremely dry soil should not be sampled either.

**How often should I test?** Ideally, soil should be tested every 3-5 years, more frequently with intensive use. Try to sample during the same season each time for best comparison.

**Need additional assistance with your lawn or garden questions?**

Call the Master Gardeners at the University of Illinois Extension office at 630-955-1123

## Soil Test Prices

**Basic Test Lawn/Garden Test Lawn/Garden Plus Non-member \$30 \$40 \$60 Member \$20 \$30 \$50**

**Basic Test** includes soil PH, Phosphorus (P1), & Potassium (K) with fertility recommendations.

**Lawn/Garden test** includes Basic Test plus organic matter and recommendations on amount & timing of fertilizer.

**Lawn/Garden Plus** includes Basic and Lawn/Garden tests, plus micronutrients iron, zinc, manganese, copper, sulfur, and boron.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Farm Bureau # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please answer each question to the best of your ability:

1. Drainage: Good \_\_\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_\_\_ Poor \_\_\_\_\_

2. Soil Type: Sandy \_\_\_\_\_ Loam \_\_\_\_\_ Clay \_\_\_\_\_

3. Topography: Flat \_\_\_\_\_ Slope \_\_\_\_\_ Steep \_\_\_\_\_

4. Crops Grown: Vegetables \_\_\_\_\_ Fruits \_\_\_\_\_ Flowers \_\_\_\_\_ Lawn \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate size/dimensions of lawn/garden \_\_\_\_\_

5. Light Exposure: Full Sun \_\_\_\_\_ Part Shade \_\_\_\_\_ Shade \_\_\_\_\_ Heavy Shade \_\_\_\_\_

Shade due to: Buildings \_\_\_\_\_ Large Trees (please circle one)

6. Soil amendments: Lime: Spring \_\_\_\_\_ Fall \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Manure/Composts/Organic Matter: Spring \_\_\_\_\_ Fall \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

7. Fertilizers Applied:

Analysis (ID. 10-6-4) \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetable Garden (lbs./sq. ft.) \_\_\_\_\_ Grass (lbs./sq. ft.) \_\_\_\_\_

1. For one soil test, collect five soil samples from several locations in your yard/garden by cutting a one inch hole about six inches deep (three inches deep for existing lawn), you should have at least one cup of soil. Do not include any dead or live plant material in the sample. Problem areas should not be included in the composite sample. Do not include live/dead grass in the sample. Place sample in a quart size sealable plastic bag.
2. Complete the soil test form on opposite page. Please be as detailed as possible –the more we know, the better your recommendations.
3. Bring sample to the DuPage County Farm Bureau:  
245 S. Gary Avenue, Carol Stream  
Monday – Friday, 8:30am-5:00pm  
Cash or check are acceptable forms of payment.  
Results will be mailed directly to your home in 7-14 days.