



SOIL TESTING

Improve Your Lawn and Garden

*A Benefit For all residents
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 Member \$30 \$35 \$55 Non-member \$40 \$45 \$65

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 3-4 soil samples from several locations in your yard/garden by cutting a one inch hole about seven inches deep, 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 above. Please be as detailed as possible –the more we know, the better your recommendations. Please include a list of vegetables, flowers, trees, or shrubs if landscape sample.

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 emailed directly to you in 7-14 days. If you need to request hard copies mailed, please contact our office.

Questions? Call 630.668.8161