

Why Soil Test?

Analyze soil to determine nutrient levels and fertilizer recommendations. It provides precise scientific information on the soil's ability to supply nutrients to plants/lawns. This knowledge allows growers to develop a tailored plan to maximize potential plant growth and minimize input costs.

What a Soil Test Provides?

- **Soil nutrient content:** pH, Organic Matter, Phosphorus, Potassium, Magnesium, CEC, Calcium, Sulfur, Iron, Manganese, Boron, Copper, and Zinc.
- **Recommendation:** Type & amount of fertilizer to add.

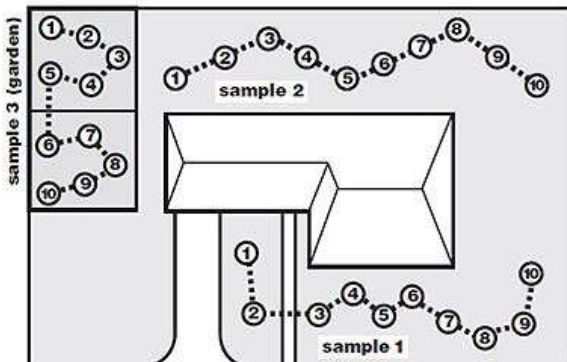
When to Sample?

Timing: Anytime the ground is not frozen. Early spring or late fall is recommended to get results in time before amending soil. **Consistency:** Sample at approximately the same time each year to easily compare historical results from the same sites. **Note:** Avoid sampling too soon after applying fertilizer this would only tell you how much you just added and not what your soil really needs!

Frequency: Every 12 months for lawns and gardens; every 2-3 years for agriculture fields.

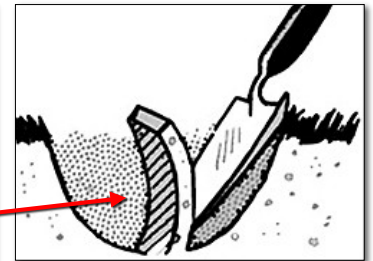
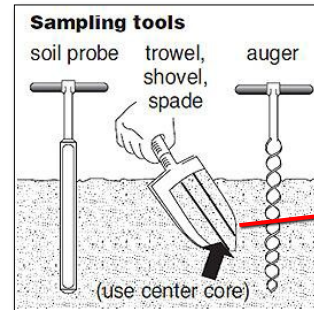
Where to Sample?

- **Representative Areas:** Take samples representative of the specific area of interest (Ex: Front Yard, Back Yard, Garden). **Note Separate Problem Spots:** Keep bad areas and good areas as separate samples. This provides a control area doing well to compare against an area that is struggling.
- **Understanding Cores vs. Samples:** **Core:** A single soil pull from one individual spot. **Sample:** The final combined mixture sent to the lab for an entire location. **Steps:** Take 10 random cores across an area and mix them together to make one total sample for that location (Ex: 10 cores = 1 Front Yard sample).



How to Sample?

1. From each site location take 10 cores, remove any overlying mulch, compost or residual plant material. Using a clean soil probe, trowel or shovel collect the cores 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 10 collected cores for one area into a clean plastic container and mix the cores thoroughly to create that area's sample. **Note:** Never mix cores or samples from different areas together (Ex: Keep Front Yard and Back Yard completely separate).



3. Scoop (2) cups of soil out of the mixture and place in a soil sample bag or plastic sandwich baggy for analysis.



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

Questions?
Contact United Soils, Inc.