

Virginia Cooperative Extension

PUBLICATION 452-125

Virginia Tech Soil Testing Laboratory

Soil Sample Information Sheet for Home Lawns, Gardens, Fruits, and Ornamentals

Please Print

INSTRUCTIONS: See other side for sampling instructions. For a recommendation, be sure to fill in the **plant code number**. Place check marks (✓) where appropriate. Use another form for commercial crop production. Send samples, forms, and payment to Virginia Tech Soil Testing Lab, 145 Smyth Hall (0465), Blacksburg, VA 24061, in a sturdy shipping carton. Processing will be delayed if soil is not received in an official sample box. See www.soiltest.vt.edu for more information.

Your Name _____
 Street, Route _____

 City _____ ZIP (required) _____
 Telephone No. _____ County _____

Extra Copy For (Dealer, etc.): _____
 Street, Route _____
 City _____ ZIP (required) _____

Date sampled: _____

Office Use only
 Extension
 Unit Code:

SAMPLE IDENTIFICATION

Your Sample Box
 Number or Name
 (Up to 5 digits)

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PLANT TO BE GROWN

Insert Plant
 Code #
 from list at right

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SOIL INFORMATION

Last Lime Application	
Months Previous	Pounds per 1,000 sq ft.
<input type="checkbox"/> —	<input type="checkbox"/> 0
<input type="checkbox"/> 0 – 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 – 50
<input type="checkbox"/> 7 – 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 51 – 100
<input type="checkbox"/> 13 – 18	<input type="checkbox"/> 101 – 150
<input type="checkbox"/> 19+	<input type="checkbox"/> 151+

PLANT CODE LIST

Lawn: Kentucky Bluegrass, Fescue, or Ryegrass

- 201 Establishing New Lawn
- 202 Maintaining Lawn, Repair of Bare Spots

Lawn: Bermudagrass, Zoysiagrass, or St. Augustine

- 203 Establishing New Lawn
- 204 Maintaining Lawn, Repair of Bare Spots

Garden

- 210 Vegetable Garden
- 211 Flower Garden
- 212 Roses

Acid-Loving Shrubs

- 240 Azaleas
- 241 Andromedas
- 242 Camellias
- 243 Laurel
- 244 Rhododendron

Non-Acid-Loving Shrubs and Trees

- 245 Shrubs - Lilac, Forsythia, Boxwood, etc.
- 246 Trees - Pine, Maple, Oak, etc.

Fruits

- 220 Apples
- 221 Blackberries
- 222 Blueberries
- 223 Currants
- 224 Gooseberries
- 225 Grapes
- 226 Nectarines
- 227 Peaches
- 228 Pears
- 229 Plums
- 230 Quince
- 231 Raspberries
- 232 Sour Cherry
- 233 Strawberries
- 234 Sweet Cherries

House Plants

- 250 Potted House Plants

SOIL TESTS DESIRED AND FEES	COST PER SAMPLE	
	IN-STATE	OUT-OF-STATE
<input type="checkbox"/> Routine (soil pH, P, K, Ca, Mg, Zn, Mn, Cu, Fe, B, and estimated CEC)	\$ 10.00	\$16.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Organic Matter – Determines percentage in soil – no recommendation given	\$ 4.00	\$ 6.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Soluble Salts – Determines if fertilizer salts are too high	\$ 2.00	\$ 3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Fax Results: FAX # (_____) _____	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.00

Send in payment along with soil sample and form; make check or money order payable to **“Treasurer, Virginia Tech.”**

Important:

For test results to be meaningful, use extreme care when taking soil samples. Each sample represents many tons of soil in your lawn or garden. Test results cannot be any more accurate than the sample submitted to the laboratory. **Do not** take samples when the soil is extremely wet.

Sampling Instructions:

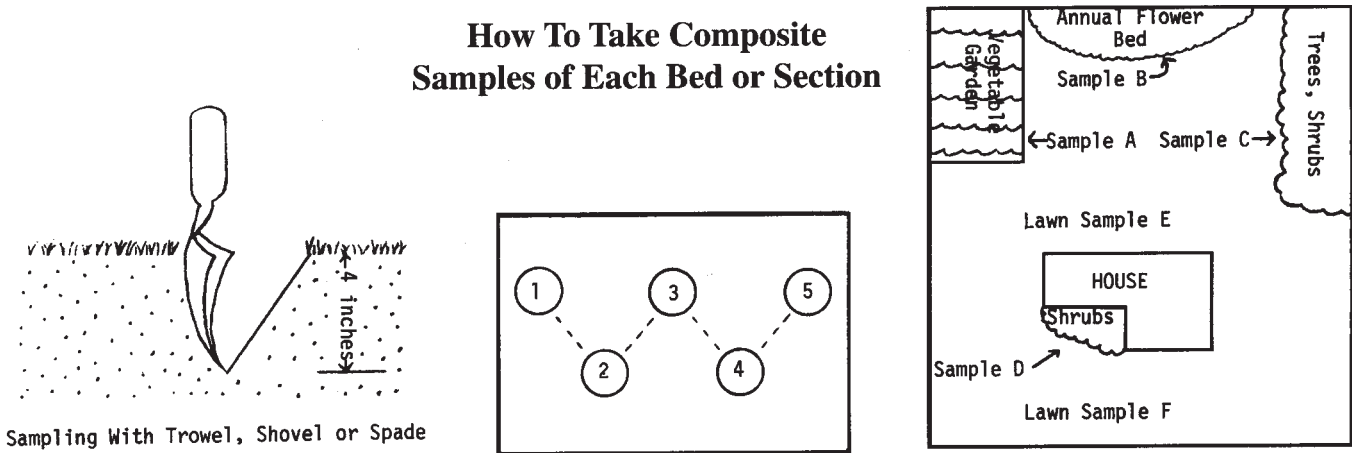
Divide your lawn or garden into sampling areas. Each area should be uniform in the kind of soil and in the past fertilizer and lime treatments it has received. An example would be separate samples (areas) for front and back lawns. For **shrubs and trees**, select an area from the trunk to the outer edges of the branches. Take a separate sample from each area as shown in the diagram below.

Use the following procedure for each sampling area:

- A – Take samples with a trowel, shovel, spade, or auger. Make a vertical cut 4" deep for lawns, or to plowing depth for gardens, and push the soil aside. Then cut a thin slice from the side of the opening that is of uniform thickness, approximately 2" in width, and extending from the top of the ground to the depth of the cut. Scrape away or discard any surface mat of grass or litter and place the slice of soil into a clean bucket or other container. Follow this sampling procedure in 10 or more different locations within each sampling area, each time placing the resulting soil in the same container, giving you a composite sample.
- B – Thoroughly mix the soil from the composite sample and then fill the sample box to the top with the mixture. Fill in the information requested on the side of the sample box, including sample number, complete the other side of this sheet, and send sample, sheet, and payment directly to the Soil Testing Laboratory.

For additional sampling instructions go to www.soiltest.vt.edu.

How To Take Composite Samples of Each Bed or Section



Reviewed by Steve Heckendorn, laboratory manager, Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences