University of Minnesota Soil Testing Laboratory

LAWN, GARDEN AND LANDSCAPE

SOIL ANALYSIS REQUEST SHEET - 2024

Report No.	

One sample per sheet

Submitter Information		Out-of-state submitters: Please visit		Date received	
Capitilities information		z.umn.edu/soil-quarantines for		Optional Reference	
Name	C	County (sample location)		 -	
Address		Copy results to my local Exte	ension Service		
City, State, Zip	Ar	mount \$			
Phone		check/cash			
1 110110		all me for credit card in	person credit card		
Email		bill account		·	
Sample Name	Recommendations requeste	ed for (one box only)	Lawns Only	Test(s) Requested	
Create a sample name. Write it below and on the			Is grass watered	Regular test \$20 - percent organic matter,	
sample container.	Lawn	Fruit	regularly?	phosphorus, potassium, pH (lime requirement), estimated texture, fertilizer recommendation	
	(101) Before seeding or sodding	(112) Tree Fruits	Yes No	Soluble salts \$8.50	
		(113) Small Fruits		Lead test \$21 - see next page for instructions	
	(102) Existing lawn	(114) Blueberries	Are grass clippings removed?	Additional tests for trace elements*	
	Gardens	Tree and Shrubs	Yes	Sulfur \$8.50 Calcium & Magnesium \$8.50	
Sample name/number	(110) Vegetable Garden	(115) Broadleaf	□ No	Nitrate \$8.50 Iron, Zinc, Copper, and Manganese \$14.50	
	(111) Flower Garden	(116) Evergreen		Boron \$8.50 Manganese \$14.50	
The sample name will be		(117) Azalea & Rhododendron		Interpretation for trace element test results is not provided.	
used on your report.				Prices effective January 2024. Subject to change.	

Tests provided by the University of Minnesota Soil Testing Laboratory are intended to aid in evaluating the fertility status and chemical condition of your soil. Based on the test results and the type of plants to be grown, you will receive fertilizer recommendations calculated to provide adequate levels of phosphorus and potassium for healthy plant growth, without adversely affecting the environment.

Evaluation of soil fertility and pH is an important *first step* in diagnosing problems. If soil fertility is not found to be a problem, the other factors affecting plant growth (such as disease, insects, insufficient light, soil moisture, compaction, or climatic conditions) may be evaluated.

County Extension Educators and Master Gardeners can help if you need more information about gardening:

https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden

Nitrogen is extremely mobile in soil. Research on Minnesota soils has shown that nitrogen recommendations based on plant requirements and soil organic matter levels are suitably accurate.

*Trace element tests are generally not recommended for lawn and garden samples. Research has shown that most soils in Minnesota contain adequate levels for plant growth. Trace element tests may be useful to some lawn care professionals dealing with special problems.

HOW TO TAKE A SOIL SAMPLE

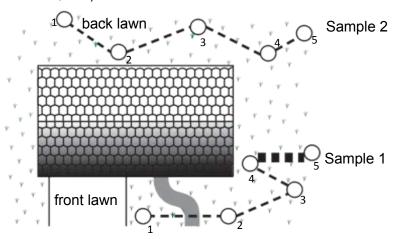
The quality of your results depends largely on the quality of your sample. For best results, please follow these instructions.

WHEN

Soil samples may be collected and submitted at any time of the year. Waiting to submit after collection won't significantly affect your results.

WHERE

- Sample areas that are similar in appearance, topography, and use.
 For example, sample a garden separately from a lawn. Or a hilly area separately from a flat area. You may want to sample the front lawn and the back lawn separately (see diagram).
- Sample areas of concern separately (trouble spots, near buildings, under trees, etc.).



HOW

- Use a garden trowel, shovel, spade, auger, etc.
- Scrape away surface litter, grass, or leaves.
- Collect 4-6 samples based on these depths:
 - o existing grass 0-3"
 - o new grass 0-6"
 - o gardens 0-6"
 - o trees & shrubs 0-12"
- Place the samples from that area into a clean bucket or pan.
- Mix together and place into a plastic baggie or used food container, etc., and submit as a composite sample (2-3 cups).
- Label the container with a sample name.

TESTS

- **Regular Test:** includes percent organic matter, phosphorus, potassium, pH (lime if needed), estimated texture and provides NPK recommendation.
- Soluble Salts: request if
 - o "black dirt" has been used and poor growth is observed,
 - there is possible damage from salt from roads/sidewalks, or excessive fertilizer.
 - o grass looks burned, even when adequate water is present,
 - soil is poorly drained and located in south central or western parts of Minnesota.
- Lead Test: Select only if lead contamination is suspected. Sample only the surface 3/4" for play areas, and surface to 3-4" for gardens. Send a separate sample if you are also requesting a Regular Test.

HOW TO SUBMIT SAMPLES

Place samples in a mailer/box. Include the request form and payment (do not put them inside touching the soil because the paperwork gets soggy). Use a separate sheet for each sample, though you may send one check for multiple samples. Make checks payable to the University of Minnesota. **Do not send cash!** The University of Minnesota will not be responsible for cash sent through the mail. Or pay with a credit card. *Prices effective January 2024. Visit z.umn.edu/lawn-garden for current prices.*

Mail the samples or deliver to (park along the curb in front of the building):

Soil Testing and Research Analytical Laboratory

University of Minnesota 135 Crops Research Building 1902 Dudley Avenue St. Paul, MN 55108

Mon-Fri 8:00am - 4:30pm soiltest@umn.edu 612-625-3101 z.umn.edu/soiltest

