

One sample per sheet

Date received \_\_\_\_\_

**Submitter Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

County (sample location) \_\_\_\_\_

Out-of-state submitters: Please visit  
<https://soiltest.cfans.umn.edu/> for a map of quarantined areas.

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

check number \_\_\_\_\_

call for credit card \_\_\_\_\_

bill account \_\_\_\_\_

**Optional Reference**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sample Name	Recommendations requested for (one box only)	Lawns Only	Test(s) Requested								
<p>Create a sample name (4 letters and/or numbers) and write it below and on the sample container.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- - -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sample name/number</p> <p>The sample name will be used on your report.</p>	<table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>Lawn</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (101) Before seeding or sodding</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (102) Existing lawn</p> <p><b>Gardens</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (110) Vegetable Garden</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (111) Flower Garden</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>Fruit</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (112) Tree Fruits</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (113) Small Fruits</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (114) Blueberries</p> <p><b>Tree and Shrubs</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (115) Broadleaf</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (116) Evergreen</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (117) Azalea &amp; Rhododendron</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b>Lawn</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (101) Before seeding or sodding</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (102) Existing lawn</p> <p><b>Gardens</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (110) Vegetable Garden</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (111) Flower Garden</p>	<p><b>Fruit</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (112) Tree Fruits</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (113) Small Fruits</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (114) Blueberries</p> <p><b>Tree and Shrubs</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (115) Broadleaf</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (116) Evergreen</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (117) Azalea &amp; Rhododendron</p>	<p>Is grass watered regularly?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Are grass clippings removed?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Regular test</b> \$17 - percent organic matter, phosphorus, potassium, pH (lime requirement), estimated texture, fertilizer recommendation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Soluble salts</b> \$7 - excessive salts</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Lead test</b> \$16 - see next page for instructions</p> <p>Additional tests for trace elements*</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Sulfur \$7</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Calcium &amp; Magnesium \$7</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Nitrate \$8</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Iron, Zinc, Copper, &amp; Manganese \$12</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Boron \$7</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The Soil Testing Laboratory does not provide interpretation for trace element test results.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Sulfur \$7	<input type="checkbox"/> Calcium & Magnesium \$7	<input type="checkbox"/> Nitrate \$8	<input type="checkbox"/> Iron, Zinc, Copper, & Manganese \$12	<input type="checkbox"/> Boron \$7	
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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:

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

Because nitrogen is extremely mobile in soils, nitrogen recommendations are based on plant requirements and soil organic matter levels as determined by the laboratory.

\*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

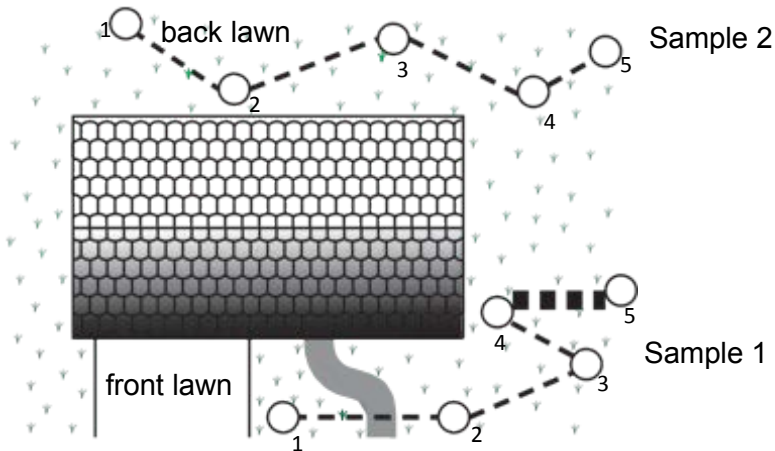
The quality of your results depends largely on the quality of your sample. For best results, please follow these instructions.

### WHEN

Soil samples may be collected and submitted any time throughout the year.

### WHERE

- Areas that are similar in appearance, topography, and use.
- Sample a garden separately from a lawn. Or a hilly area separately from a flat area. For example, 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:
  - existing grass - 0-3"
  - new grass - 0-6"
  - gardens - 0-6"
  - 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 4-character ID.

## TESTS

- **Regular Test:** includes pH, percent organic matter, phosphorus, potassium, pH (lime if needed), and estimated texture
- **Soluble Salts:** request if
  - "black dirt" has been used and poor growth is observed,
  - there is possible damage from salt from roads/sidewalks, or excessive fertilizer.
  - 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 (but do not put them inside with the soil because the paperwork gets soggy). Please 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.

Mail or deliver the samples to:

### 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  
soiltest.cfans.umn.edu

