Submitter Information

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City, State, Zip ____________________________
Phone ________________________________
Email ________________________________

County (sample location)______________________________

Amount $______________________________

Sample name/number ________________________________

The sample name will be used on your report.

Recommendations requested for (one box only)

Lawn
☐ (101) Before seeding or sodding
☐ (102) Existing lawn

Gardens
☐ (110) Vegetable Garden
☐ (111) Flower Garden

Fruit
☐ (112) Tree Fruits
☐ (113) Small Fruits
☐ (114) Blueberries

Tree and Shrubs
☐ (115) Broadleaf
☐ (116) Evergreen
☐ (117) Azalea & Rhododendron

Is grass watered regularly?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Are grass clippings removed?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Test(s) Requested

☐ Regular test $20 - percent organic matter, phosphorus, potassium, pH (lime requirement), estimated texture, fertilizer recommendation

☐ Soluble salts $8.50

☐ Lead test $21 - see next page for instructions

Additional tests for trace elements*

☐ Sulfur $8.50
☐ Calcium & Magnesium $8.50
☐ Nitrate $8.50
☐ Iron, Zinc, Copper, and Manganese $14.50

Interpretation for trace element test results is not provided.

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:
  - 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 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
  - "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 (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

State Fair Grounds