

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
Soil Testing Laboratory

**LAWN, GARDEN AND LANDSCAPE**  
SOIL ANALYSIS REQUEST SHEET - 2026

Report No. \_\_\_\_\_

Do not submit samples from outside of the USA or from quarantined parts of the USA. Call first.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

County (sample location) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Copy results to my local Extension Service \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check/Cash \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit/Debit Card or Bill Account \_\_\_\_\_

Sample Name	For Office Use Only	Recommendation. Enter one code from the list.	Lawns Only	Test(s) Requested
			Lawn watered regularly? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  Grass clippings removed? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Test \$22 <b>Additional Tests*</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Soluble Salts \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Sulfur \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Boron \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Lead Test \$23 <input type="checkbox"/> Nitrate \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Ca & Mg \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Fe, Zn, Cu, Mn \$16
			Lawn watered regularly? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  Grass clippings removed? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Test \$22 <b>Additional Tests*</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Soluble Salts \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Sulfur \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Boron \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Lead Test \$23 <input type="checkbox"/> Nitrate \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Ca & Mg \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Fe, Zn, Cu, Mn \$16
			Lawn watered regularly? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  Grass clippings removed? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Test \$22 <b>Additional Tests*</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Soluble Salts \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Sulfur \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Boron \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Lead Test \$23 <input type="checkbox"/> Nitrate \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Ca & Mg \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Fe, Zn, Cu, Mn \$16

\*Additional 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, if a deficiency is suspected or has been identified. Interpretation for trace elements is not provided.

**Fertilizer Recommendation Codes:** Write the 3-digit number in the "Recommendation" column based on what you intend to grow. One code per sample.

**Lawn**  
101 Before Seeding or Sodding  
102 Existing Lawn

**Garden**  
110 Vegetable Garden  
111 Flower Garden

**Fruit**  
112 Tree Fruit  
113 Small Fruit  
114 Blueberries

**Trees/Shrubs**  
115 Broadleaf  
116 Evergreen  
117 Azalea and Rhododendron

## How to Take a Soil Sample

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

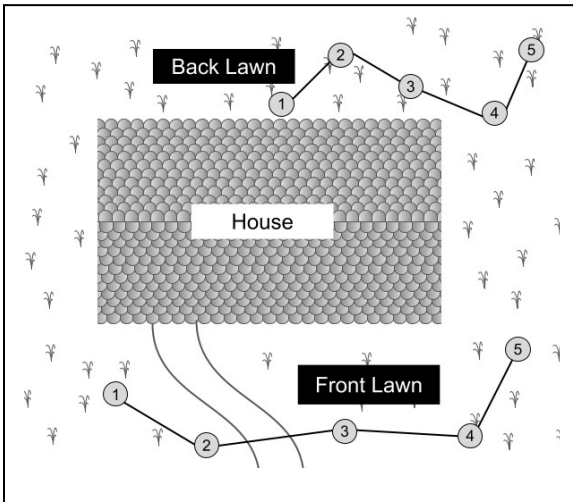
Sample areas that are similar in appearance, topography, and use. For example, sample a garden separately from a lawn, or a hilly area separately from a flat area. You can sample the front lawn and the back lawn separately (see diagram). Sample areas of concern separately (trouble spots, near buildings,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

- Scrape away surface litter, grass, or leaves.
- Collect 4-6 samples based on these depths using a garden trowel, shovel, auger, etc.

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 bowl and thoroughly mix together (break apart lumps), remove rocks.
- Pour 2-3 cups of that mixture into a plastic baggie or used food container, etc., and submit that as the sample of that area.
- Label the container with a sample name.



## Nitrogen Recommendations

Research on Minnesota soils has shown that nitrogen recommendations based on plant requirements and soil organic matter levels are suitably accurate. Therefore, the nitrogen recommendations will be based on the percent organic matter and what you intend to grow.

**These prices are valid from January 1 to December 31, 2026.**

## Tests

**Regular Test:** Percent organic matter, phosphorus, potassium, pH (lime if needed), estimated texture, and provides fertilizer 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:** Sample only the surface 3/4" for play areas, and surface to 3-4" for gardens. Send separate sample if you are also requesting a Regular Test.

## Submitting Samples and Paying for Tests

Place samples in a mailer/box. Include the request form and payment (do not put the form inside touching the soil because the paperwork gets soggy). You may pay with check, credit card, Apple Pay or cash. Do not send cash in the mail. Make checks payable to U of MN. Visit [z.umn.edu/lawn-garden](http://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 Lab

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

Mon - Fri, 8:00am - 4:30pm  
[soiltest@umn.edu](mailto:soiltest@umn.edu)  
612-625-3101  
[z.umn.edu/soiltest](http://z.umn.edu/soiltest)

Tests provided by the University of Minnesota Soil Testing Laboratory are intended to aid in evaluating the fertility status of your soil sample. 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>