

PREPARING YOUR SAMPLE FOR SUBMISSION

1. Break up lumps and air dry the soil on parchment paper, butcher paper or a paper plate at room temperature with no artificial heat (do not use newspaper or colored paper).
2. Dry until the lumps can be crushed to the size of wheat grains or smaller.
3. Mix well and remove roots and other large pieces of organic debris.
4. Take no less than one (1) cup of the sample and place it in a clean container (plastic tub or bag is fine).
5. Bring sample to OSU Extension – Licking County located at 771 E. Main Street, Suite 103, Newark. We will assist you in filling out the sample submission form and mail.



Soil Sampling Tips

1. Separate soil tests should be used for:
 - Areas that have received different applications for soil fertility programs.
 - Soils distinguishable by color (i.e. light vs. dark), drainage or other factors.
 - Different types of plant cultivation (turfgrass, vegetable gardens, trees/shrubs, etc.).
2. Sample when soils are suitable for spading or plowing.
3. Organic matter on top of the soil should not be included in the soil test samples. This includes plants, mulch, thatch, etc.

For more information, please visit the *Soil Testing* page at go.osu.edu/lickingcountysoil.

— We Sustain Life —

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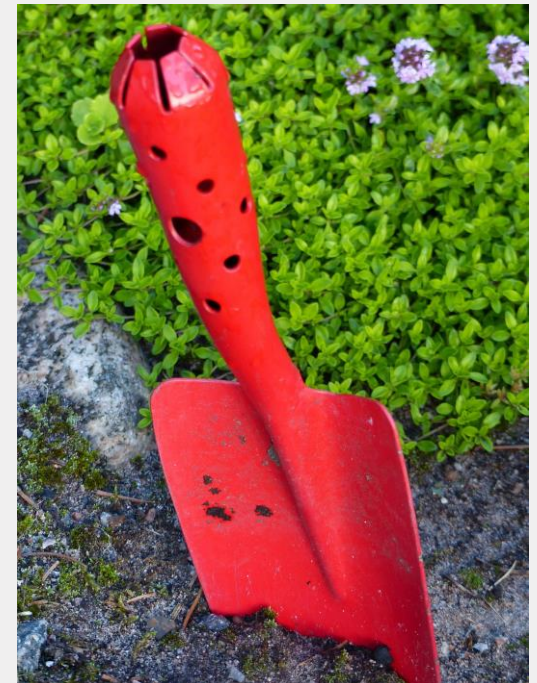
licking.osu.edu

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OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
LICKING COUNTY

SOIL TESTING AVAILABLE



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

SOIL TESTING

Soil tests provide more helpful information on soils than any other resource. It is an inexpensive way to maintain good plant health in lawns and landscapes, and to maximize productivity of vegetable gardens and fruit crops. Soil test results pinpoint plant nutrient needs and soil test lab recommendations guide fertilizer applications so just the right amount is used.

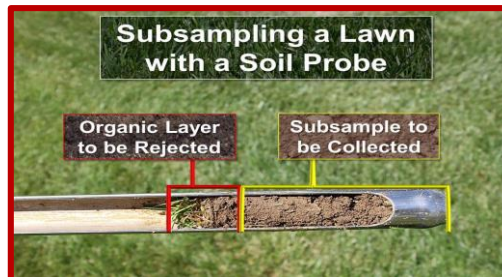
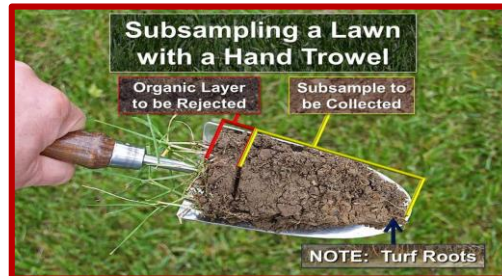
- Testing available for garden, home lawns, farm fields and commercial horticulture operations
- **\$15** per soil test (cash and check accepted)
- Fertilizer/lime recommendations included with test results based on nutrient levels and pH
- Additional testing available for an additional cost
- Analysis done at a non-biased university soil testing laboratory (Penn State)
- Results in 7 – 10 days

Why Do I Need to Soil Test?

1. Maintaining proper soil fertility
2. Guiding plant selection
3. Performing plant problem diagnostics
4. Conforming to industry approved standard practices

What Tools Do I Need?

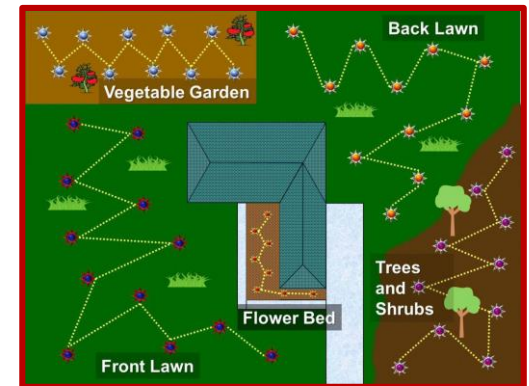
1. Soil probe
2. Garden spade, knife or hand trowel
3. Plastic bucket



Soil should be sampled to root depth, which typically means 5 to 8 inches for trees, shrubs, flowerbeds, and vegetable gardens, and 3 to 4 inches for lawns.

SAMPLE COLLECTION

The number of subsamples depends upon the size of the area being tested. In general, 5 to 10 subsamples are sufficient for small areas such as flowerbeds and 10 to 15 subsamples are recommended for larger areas such as lawns. Subsamples should be taken at random in a zigzag pattern over the entire area and each subsample should be taken to the same depth and soil volume.



This graphic shows five zones that will be soil tested. The stars in the graphic show where the subsamples should be taken. The subsamples should be taken in a zig-zag pattern, shown by the yellow-dotted lines.