

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA Soil Testing Laboratory

LAWN, GARDEN AND LANDSCAPE SOIL ANALYSIS REQUEST SHEET

Report No. _____

One sample per sheet

Submitter Information

Out-of-state submitters: Please visit
z.umn.edu/soil-quarantines for a map of quarantined areas.

Optional Reference

Date received _____

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

County (sample location) _____
 Copy results to my local Extension Service
Amount \$ _____
 check/cash _____
 call me for credit card in person credit card
 bill account _____

Sample Name

Create a sample name.
Write it below and on the
sample container.

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

Lawns Only

Is grass watered regularly?
 Yes
 No

Ave grass clippings removed?
 Yes
 No

Test(s) Requested

- Regular test** \$19 - percent organic matter, phosphorus, potassium, pH (lime requirement), estimated texture, fertilizer recommendation
- Soluble salts** \$8 - excessive salts
- Lead test** \$20 - see next page for instructions
- Additional tests for trace elements*
 Sulfur \$8 Calcium & Magnesium \$8
 Nitrate \$8 Iron, Zinc, Copper, and Manganese \$14
 Boron \$8

The sample name will be used on your report.

Interpretation for trace element test results is not provided.

Prices effective January 2023. 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:
<https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden>

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

See next page or reverse side of this form for soil sampling information and mailing instructions

HOW TO TAKE A SOIL SAMPLE

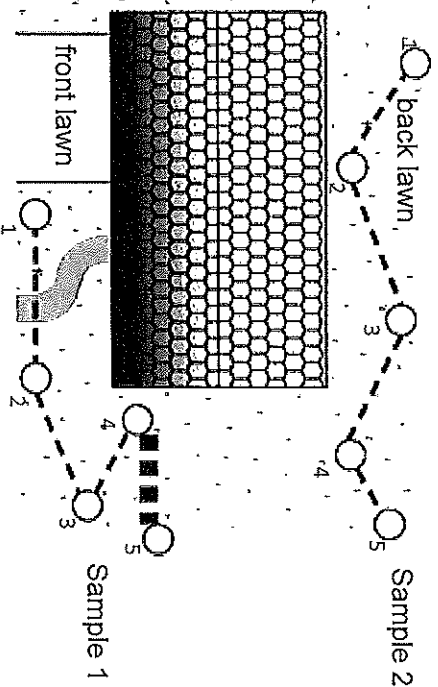
The quality of your results depends largely on the quality of your sample. For best results, please follow these instructions.

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 sample name.

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 (do not put them inside touching 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. Or pay with a credit card. Prices effective 01-2023. Visit z.umn.edu/lawn-garden for current prices.

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

