

**Want a greener lawn?  
Healthier garden?  
Or more beautiful flowers?**

**A soil test from  
University of Missouri Extension  
can help!**



**East Central Missouri**

**Did you know you can have your soil tested by the University of Missouri Extension Soil Testing Lab?**

**Soil testing tells you:**

- ▶ what nutrients are available in your soil
- ▶ recommendations to correct problems.

In most cases, you only need to run a soil test every 4-5 years. If results are significantly out of range, you may need to recheck the soil in only 1-2 years. Soil testing can help improve your soil's ability to grow grass or specific plants.

**A "regular" soil test provides this information:**

- ▶ pH level (acidity or alkalinity)
- ▶ phosphorus
- ▶ potassium
- ▶ calcium
- ▶ magnesium
- ▶ organic matter percent
- ▶ recommendations for corrective treatment.

**How to take a soil sample:**

1. Select area you want to test. (It should be dry.)
2. Take 6-12 cores from area to be tested. For each core, sample to a 3-inch depth on established lawns and to a 6-inch depth for all other situations.
3. Place all cores in a plastic pail.
4. Remove live plant material.
5. Mix collected cores and break up any clumps.
6. Air dry the soil sample overnight. (Do not put soil in the microwave or oven!)
7. Place about 2 cups of the dried soil in a zip-locked plastic bag to submit for the test.

**Where to submit a soil sample:**

University of Missouri Extension offices in these East Central Missouri counties accept soil samples:

- ▶ **Franklin County:** 116 W. Main St., Union, MO 63084; 636-583-5141
- ▶ **Jefferson County:** 301 3rd St., Hillsboro, MO 63050; 636-797-5391
- ▶ **Lincoln County:** 880 West College St., Troy, MO 63379; 636-528-4613
- ▶ **Montgomery County:** 310 Salisbury, Suite E, Montgomery City, MO 63361; 573-564-3733
- ▶ **St. Charles County:** 260 Brown Rd., St. Peters, MO 63376; 636-970-3000
- ▶ **St. Francois County:** 1 West Liberty, Suite 101, Farmington, MO 63640; 573-756-4539
- ▶ **Ste. Genevieve County:** 255 Market St., Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670; 573-883-3548
- ▶ **St. Louis County:** 121 S. Meramec, Suite 501, Clayton, MO 63105; 314-615-2911
- ▶ **Warren County:** 107 West Walton, Warrenton, MO 63383; 636-456-3444
- ▶ **Washington County:** 113 N. Missouri, Suite A, Potosi, MO 63664; 573-438-2671

**Results and recommendations:** Will be returned by mail about 2 weeks after submitting the sample.

**Office hours, directions, costs:** For details, visit [extension.missouri.edu/ecregion](http://extension.missouri.edu/ecregion); click on the county nearest you.

**For more information:**

- ▶ Guidesheet G6954, *Soil Testing for Lawns:* [extension.missouri.edu/explore/agguides/hort/g06954.htm](http://extension.missouri.edu/explore/agguides/hort/g06954.htm)
- ▶ MU Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory: [www.soiltest.psu.missouri.edu/soil/](http://www.soiltest.psu.missouri.edu/soil/)
- ▶ Watch a video: [extension.missouri.edu/ecregion](http://extension.missouri.edu/ecregion)

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