

**Want a greener lawn?  
More fertile pastures?  
Or a healthier garden?**

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



**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.

**Submit your soil sample to:**

Washington County Extension Center  
113 North Missouri Street  
Suite A  
Potosi, MO 63664  
573-438-2671

The Extension Center staff will provide a soil sample box and help you complete the Soil Sample Information form.

**Directions to office:** The office is located in the Old Ozark Federal Building at the corner of Breton and North Missouri Street. Visit the web at [extension.missouri.edu/washington/location.shtml](http://extension.missouri.edu/washington/location.shtml)

**Soil samples accepted:** 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**Cost per sample:** \$13.00

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

**For more information:**

- ▶ See Guidesheet G6954, *Soil Testing for Lawns*: [muextension.missouri.edu/explore/agguides/hort/g06954.htm](http://muextension.missouri.edu/explore/agguides/hort/g06954.htm)
- ▶ Obtain a Horticulture Soil Sample Information form, MP 555: [www.soiltest.psu.missouri.edu/hortforms.htm](http://www.soiltest.psu.missouri.edu/hortforms.htm)
- ▶ Contact Washington County Extension Center, 573-438-2671; [WashingtonCo@missouri.edu](mailto:WashingtonCo@missouri.edu)
- ▶ Visit [extension.missouri.edu/washington](http://extension.missouri.edu/washington)

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