Extension
University of Missouri

Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory

University of Missouri
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Columbia, MO 65211
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http://soilplantlab.missouri.edu

Soil Sample Information for Lawns and Gardens

Serial No. H

H

Name _____

Date _____ / _____ / _____

Address _____

Account No.: Firm _____ (if applicable)   Outlet _____ (if applicable)

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Firm _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Address _____

Email _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

County of origin _____ ○ Bill county or ○ Bill firm

Phone _____ Fax _____

Billing county code _____

Email _____

Plant Code for Lawn and Garden Options (Instructions on back of form)

Gardens

1   Vegetables
2   Annual flower garden

Lawns

3   Fescue, bluegrass, ryegrass (establishment)
4   Fescue, bluegrass, ryegrass (avg. maintenance)
5   Fescue, bluegrass, ryegrass (high maintenance)
6   Bermudagrass, buffalograss, zoysia (establishment)
7   Bermudagrass, buffalograss, zoysia (avg. maintenance)
8   Bermudagrass, buffalograss, zoysia (high maintenance)

Shrubs/Trees/Fruits/Ornamentals

9   Perennial bedding plants (specify)
12 Shrubs (specify)
    e.g., azalea, hydrangea, rhododendron, Am. bittersweet, boxwood, forsythia, honeysuckle, lilac, arborvitae, barberry
16 Trees (specify)
    e.g., magnolia, white pine, pin oak, holly, sweetgum, ash, birch, spruce, junipers, redbud
18 Fruit trees (specify)

19 Nut trees (specify)
20 Blueberries
21 Strawberries, blackberries, gooseberries, raspberries
22 Grapes
23 Vines, ground covers (specify)
24 Bulbs (specify)
25 Roses
27 Other, or not specified

Lawn and Garden Options

Send report by: ☐ Hard copy ☐ Email ☐ CSV

Check (✓) Test(s) Desired

Lab No. (lab use only)	Sample	Sample identification No more than 12 letters or numbers	Sampling depth	Last Limed (<1; 2–5; >5)	Plant Code	1 Specific plant	Plant Code	2 Specific plant	Plant Code	3 Specific plant	Regular	Zinc	Sulfur	Zn, Fe, Mn, Cu	Salts (EC)	Sodium	pH_w	Nitrate-N	NO_3-N&NH_4-N	Boron	Soil texture
	1										☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	2										☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	3										☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	4										☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Regular fertility test includes pH, N.A., P, K, Ca, Mg, CEC and OM%

Comments: _____

University of Missouri System, Lincoln University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Local University Extension Councils cooperating
equal opportunity/ADA institutions

Instructions for completing soil sample information sheet

Up to 4 soil samples from one grower may be entered on this form.

County of origin and billing county codes

These codes are needed for proper mailing of results and billing. Codes are assigned to each county extension office.

Account Number, Firm and Outlet

To be completed if a sample is being submitted by a firm or individual with an account number assigned by one of the Soil Testing Labs. This is for use only when payment is to be made directly to a lab and not through a county extension office.

Sample Identification

For your use in identifying sample results returned to you.

Last limed (years ago)

1 = Less than 1 year   **2** = 1 to 5 years   **3** = more than 5 years   **4** = never   **5** = unknown

Plant Code

Select recommendations for up to three plants by entering the corresponding plant code number. At least one plant must be selected to receive a fertilizer recommendation.

(specify): When a plant code has a description followed by (specify) write the specific plant in the space provided (e.g., for apple trees: 12 fruit trees (specify) — write 12 in the plant code column and write "apples" in the specify column).

Which tests to request:

Tests desired:

Place a check mark in the column beneath tests desired for each sample. If in doubt, begin with the regular test or consult your regional horticulture specialist or one of the Soil Testing Labs.

Regular fertility tests:

For a general analysis of a soil's fertility, a regular soil test package of pH, neutralizable acidity, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, organic matter and cation exchange capacity will be sufficient.

In certain cases **additional tests** may be required:

- **Micronutrients:** Zinc (Zn), iron (Fe), copper (Cu) and manganese (Mn) Micronutrients may be desired in high pH soils.
- **Sulfur:** Sandy soils low in organic matter may have sulfur deficiency.
- **Salt Content (Electrical Conductivity):** Soils with salt problems should be tested for salt content (e.g., salt or fertilizer spills, heavy applications of manure, or irrigating with alkaline water can lead to salt problems).

How to sample

You can use a shovel, however, it is not as good as a probe or auger. A soil coring device such as a probe or auger works best to sample soil, because these tools equally collect soil from surface through the entire sampling depth (0 to 6 inches for gardens and 5 to 6 inches for lawns). Soil probes and augers are available through the MU Soil and Plant Testing Lab or your Regional Extension Specialist may be able to help you locate a supplier. However, if you use a shovel, dig a hole to the proper depth, shave a 1-inch slice from the side of the hole, save the vertical, 1-inch wide center portion of this slice.

Sample from uniform areas. Avoid known soil differences (soil color, texture, slope, limestone, fertilizer, manure) in composite samples — sample them separately. Mix samples (8 to 10 separate cores/samples) to obtain one composite sample in a clean plastic pail (metal pails contaminate the soil with micronutrients) and retain 1 pint (MU soil sample box full).

How to package

Send soil samples in proper containers such as the boxes and bags specifically designed for soil samples. (Avoid glass jars, coffee cans, plastic bags, etc.) If samples are very wet, allow them to air dry for a day before mailing. Wet samples should not be sent in sample boxes that are plastic lined as they will not allow soil to dry during transit. Copy the serial number and sample ID from the sample information form to the soil sample container. Submit the soil sample and form together to your University Extension Center. Soil sample boxes are free and may be obtained from your local University County Extension Office or the Soil Testing Lab nearest you.

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Delivery options for report

The section labeled "Send report by" lists three delivery options. You may select up to two delivery options. If you make no selection, the default delivery option will be to send a hard copy to the address provided.