



Soil Sample Information Sheet for Home Lawns, Gardens, Fruits, and Ornamentals

Please Type or Write Legibly (Form expires January 2023)

Use another form for commercial crop production. Not for growth media containing greater than 50% organic matter. See other side for sampling instructions. Processing will be delayed if soil is not received in the lab's sample container. For a recommendation, be sure to fill in a plant code number. Each sample must have its own form. For more information, go to www.soiltest.vt.edu or contact your local Virginia Cooperative Extension office.

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail To Send Report To: _____ Mailing Address: _____ _____ City: _____ ZIP Code (required): _____ County Where Soil is Located (required): _____ Copy Report To (Consultant, etc.): _____ Their E-mail: _____	Date sampled: _____ MM/DD/YY Office Use only Extension Unit Code: <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>
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SAMPLE IDENTIFICATION Your Sample Box Number or Name (Up to 5 digits) <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 20px; display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"><div style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></div><div style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></div><div style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></div><div style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></div><div style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></div></div>	PLANT TO BE GROWN Insert Plant Code # from list at right <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 20px; display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"><div style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></div><div style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></div><div style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></div></div>	<p style="text-align: center;">PLANT CODE LIST (Select One)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Lawn: Kentucky Bluegrass, Fescue, or Ryegrass</u> 201 Establishing New Lawn 202 Maintaining Lawn, Repair of Bare Spots <u>Lawn: Bermudagrass, Zoysiagrass, or St. Augustine</u> 203 Establishing New Lawn 204 Maintaining Lawn, Repair of Bare Spots <u>Garden</u> 210 Vegetable Garden 211 Flower Garden 212 Roses <u>Acid-Loving Shrubs</u> 240 Azaleas 241 Andromedas 242 Camellias 243 Laurel 244 Rhododendron </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Non-Acid-Loving Shrubs and Trees</u> 245 Shrubs - Lilac, Forsythia, Boxwood, etc. 246 Trees - Pine, Maple, Oak, etc. <u>Fruits</u> 220 Apples 221 Blackberries 222 Blueberries 223 Currants 224 Gooseberries 225 Grapes 226 Nectarines 227 Peaches 228 Pears 229 Plums 230 Quince 231 Raspberries 232 Sour Cherry 233 Strawberries 234 Sweet Cherries <u>House Plants</u> 250 Potted House Plants </td> </tr> </table>	<u>Lawn: Kentucky Bluegrass, Fescue, or Ryegrass</u> 201 Establishing New Lawn 202 Maintaining Lawn, Repair of Bare Spots <u>Lawn: Bermudagrass, Zoysiagrass, or St. Augustine</u> 203 Establishing New Lawn 204 Maintaining Lawn, Repair of Bare Spots <u>Garden</u> 210 Vegetable Garden 211 Flower Garden 212 Roses <u>Acid-Loving Shrubs</u> 240 Azaleas 241 Andromedas 242 Camellias 243 Laurel 244 Rhododendron	<u>Non-Acid-Loving Shrubs and Trees</u> 245 Shrubs - Lilac, Forsythia, Boxwood, etc. 246 Trees - Pine, Maple, Oak, etc. <u>Fruits</u> 220 Apples 221 Blackberries 222 Blueberries 223 Currants 224 Gooseberries 225 Grapes 226 Nectarines 227 Peaches 228 Pears 229 Plums 230 Quince 231 Raspberries 232 Sour Cherry 233 Strawberries 234 Sweet Cherries <u>House Plants</u> 250 Potted House Plants
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SOIL TESTS DESIRED AND FEES	COST PER SAMPLE	
	IN-STATE	OUT-OF-STATE
<input type="checkbox"/> Routine (soil pH, P, K, Ca, Mg, Zn, Mn, Cu, Fe, B, and estimated CEC)	\$10.00	\$16.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Organic Matter – Determines percentage in soil – no recommendation given	\$4.00	\$6.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Soluble Salts – Determines if fertilizer salts are too high	\$2.00	\$3.00

Make check or money order payable to "**Treasurer, Virginia Tech**". Do not send cash by mail. Please send this form along with payment, together with corresponding samples in the same sturdy shipping container to: Virginia Tech Soil Testing Lab, 145 Smyth Hall (MC 0465), 185 Ag Quad Ln, Blacksburg VA 24061.

Important:

For test results to be meaningful, use extreme care when taking soil samples. Each sample represents many tons of soil in your lawn or garden. Test results cannot be any more accurate than the sample submitted to the laboratory. **Do not** take samples when the soil is extremely wet.

Sampling Instructions:

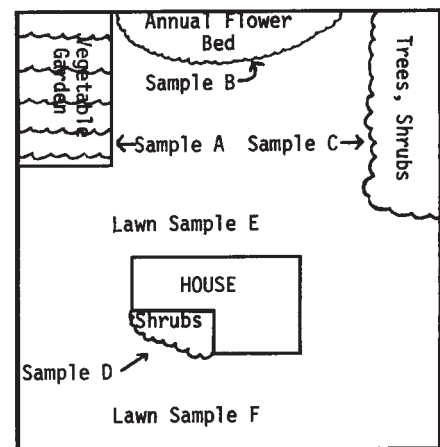
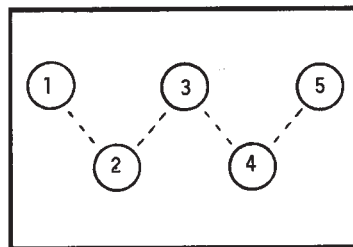
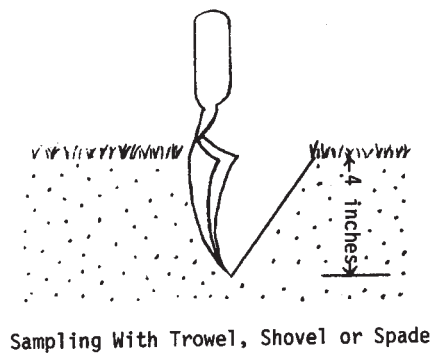
Divide your lawn or garden into sampling areas. Each area should be uniform in the kind of soil and in the past fertilizer and lime treatments it has received. An example would be separate samples (areas) for front and back lawns. For **shrubs and trees**, select an area from the trunk to the outer edges of the branches. Take a separate sample from each area as shown in the diagram below.

Use the following procedure for each sampling area:

- A – Take samples with a trowel, shovel, spade, or auger. Make a vertical cut 4" deep for lawns, or to plowing depth for gardens, and push the soil aside. Then cut a thin slice from the side of the opening that is of uniform thickness, approximately 2" in width, and extending from the top of the ground to the depth of the cut. Scrape away or discard any surface mat of grass or litter and place the slice of soil into a clean bucket or other container. Follow this sampling procedure in 10 or more different locations within each sampling area, each time placing the resulting soil in the same container, giving you a composite sample.
- B – Thoroughly mix the soil from the composite sample and then fill the sample box to the top with the mixture. Fill in the information requested on the side of the sample box, including sample number, complete the other side of this sheet, and send sample, sheet, and payment directly to the Soil Testing Laboratory.

For additional sampling instructions go to www.soiltest.vt.edu.

How To Take Composite Samples of Each Bed or Section



Reviewed by Steve Heckendorn, laboratory manager, School of Plant and Environmental Sciences

www.ext.vt.edu

Produced by Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, 2019

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