



Send this information sheet with **ONE (1)** soil sample

MAIL SOIL TEST REPORT TO: _____ **OPTIONAL REFERENCE:** _____

NAME _____

Soil Location: County _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Check for \$ _____ enclosed

Phone _____

<p>Please provide a name for this sample, consisting of no more than 4 numbers and/or letters. Indicate this name on the sample container and record it here.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>The report you receive will use this name to identify your sample.</p>	<p>Fertilizer Recommendation Requested for: (check <u>only</u> one)</p> <p>New Lawn / Turf</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (101) Before seeding or sodding</p> <p>Existing Grass</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (102) Home lawn <input type="checkbox"/> (103) School / Industrial Grounds <input type="checkbox"/> (104) Athletic field <input type="checkbox"/> (105) Park / Cemetery <input type="checkbox"/> (106) Golf tee <input type="checkbox"/> (107) Golf fairway <input type="checkbox"/> (108) Golf green</p> <p>Gardens</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (110) Vegetable garden <input type="checkbox"/> (111) Flower garden</p> <p>Fruit</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (112) Tree fruits <input type="checkbox"/> (113) Small fruits <input type="checkbox"/> (114) Blueberries</p> <p>Trees and Shrubs</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (115) Broadleaf <input type="checkbox"/> (116) Evergreen <input type="checkbox"/> (117) Azalea & Rhododendron</p>	<p>For Grass Only</p> <p>Is grass watered regularly?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (1) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> (2) No</p> <p>Are clippings removed?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (1) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> (2) No</p>	<p>Check Tests Requested</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Regular test, \$17.00 – includes total organic matter, phosphorus, potassium, pH – lime requirement, and estimated texture.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Soluble salts, \$7 – testing for excessive salts</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lead test, \$16 -- (separate sample required)</p> <p>*Additional tests, primarily of interest to land care professionals.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sulfur \$7 <input type="checkbox"/> Calcium / Magnesium \$7 <input type="checkbox"/> Nitrate \$8 <input type="checkbox"/> Iron, Zinc, Copper, and <input type="checkbox"/> Boron \$7 Manganese \$12</p> <p>Be advised – The Soil Testing Laboratory does not provide interpretation for trace element tests.</p>
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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 these 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.

Problems with plants may be caused by factors other than soil fertility, e.g., disease, insects, insufficient light, soil moisture or compaction, or climatic conditions. An 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 should be evaluated to determine possible causes. Your County Extension Educator or Master Gardener can help if you need more information to diagnose your problem.

Because nitrogen is extremely mobile in soils, nitrogen recommendations are based on plant requirements and soil organic matter level as determined by the laboratory.

**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 land care professionals dealing with special problems.

HOW TO TAKE A SOIL SAMPLE

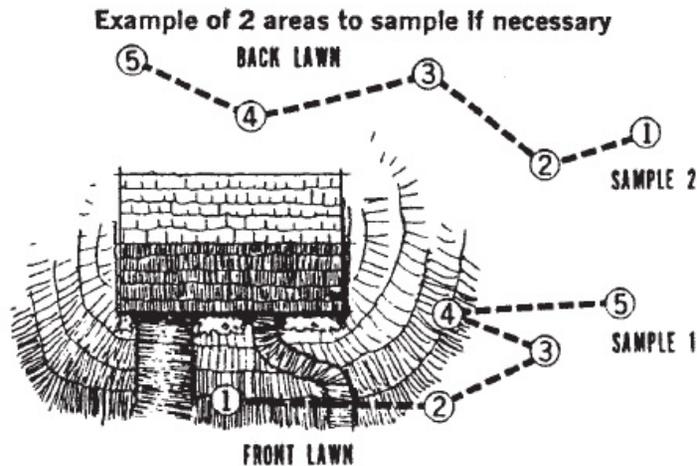
The quality of your result depends largely on the quality of your sample. To obtain a good soil sample, follow the directions below.

WHEN

Soil samples may be collected whenever soil conditions permit. When submitting your samples to the laboratory, check our website (<http://soiltest.cfans.umn.edu/>) for current turnaround times and more information.

WHERE

- If the area is fairly level and the soil appears to be uniform, collect one composite (mixed) sample.
- If your lawn or garden has large areas which differ in fertility, take one sample from each area. For example, you may want to sample the front lawn and the back lawn separately (see diagram).



- Do not combine soil from the lawn area and a garden in the same composite sample.
- Areas of special concern (under trees, near buildings, trouble spots) should be represented by separate samples.

HOW

Use a garden trowel, spade, sampling tube or soil auger. **Scrape away or discard any surface mat of grass or litter.** Sample the lawn or garden area to the sampling depth indicated below.

- 1) existing grass - sample 0-3"
- 2) new grass - sample 0-6"
- 3) gardens - sample 0-6"
- 4) trees/shrubs - sample 0-12"
- 5) lead test - **sample only surface 3/4"**

- Place the soil sample in a clean bucket or pan.

- Repeat sampling in several random locations *within the chosen area*. Mix soil well to make ONE *composite* sample for the entire area, and send or bring **2-3 CUPS** of the composite sample to the lab. Use a clean, leak-proof container (e.g. disposable food storage bag or tub) and place the container inside a *sturdy* mailer or shipping package. Please keep your paperwork *outside* of the soil container, but DO place the form(s) and payment *inside* the sealed mailer or shipping package.
- Label the sample container with your name, address and sample identification (**max = 4 characters**). Fill out the other side of this form **completely**, and *keep a record of your sample identification*.
- **Soluble salts test:** This test should be requested if:
 - 1) "black dirt" has been hauled in and poor growth is observed,
 - 2) there is possible damage from salt used on streets and sidewalks, **or** excess application of fertilizer,
 - 3) the grass looks burned even when adequate water is present,
 - 4) the soil is poorly drained and located in the south central or western part of the state.
 - 5) For golf greens, which must be heavily fertilized, salt content needs to be monitored and factored into making fertilizer recommendations.
- **Lead test:** Select only if lead contamination is suspected.

HOW TO SUBMIT SAMPLES

Soil samples may be delivered in person to Room 135 Crops Research Building, University of Minnesota (see map below), or mailed to:

Soil Testing Laboratory
University of Minnesota Website: <http://soiltest.cfans.umn.edu>
1902 Dudley Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108 Phone: (612)625-3101

Enclose a separate form and full payment for each sample to be tested. You may send one check to cover the cost of 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. The sender pays the postage.

