

Why a soil test?

Soil in its natural state is rarely fertile enough for the best growth of plants. Usually it is necessary to replenish the earth's store of plant nutrients to obtain the most vigorous lawn, the most abundant and brilliant flowers, the prettiest trees and shrubs, and the greatest yield of fresh veggies.

What is the best time to test soil?

Proper sampling is important to obtain accurate results. Samples can be taken any time during the warmer months, when soil temperatures are at least 55 degrees. If the soil is too wet to spade, rototill or hoe, it is generally too wet to take a sample. On the other hand, extremely dry soil should not be sampled either.

How often should I test?

Ideally, soil should be tested every 3-5 years, more frequently with intensive use. Try to sample during the same season each time for best comparison.

What is Farm Bureau and how do you join?

Farm Bureau is a voice for farmers and others who have an interest in agriculture. The Lake County Farm Bureau has over 13,000 members, and you can be a member too! There are many benefits for members of our organization, just one of which is discounted pricing on soil testing. Annual dues are \$20 for non-farmers, and \$36 for farmers. Our mission is to "Promote agriculture while serving our members." If you would like to learn more about our organization please feel free to contact our office at 847-223-6506, or check us out at www.lcfb.com.

Need additional assistance with your lawn or garden questions?

Call the Master Gardeners at the University of Illinois Extension office at 847-223-8627!

SOIL TESTING

IMPROVE
YOUR
LAWN
& GARDEN



70 US Hwy 45
Grayslake, IL 60030

Tel: 847-223-6506
www.LCFB.com

Name _____ Date ___/___/___

Farm Bureau number _____ N/A

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please answer each question to the best of your ability:

1. **Drainage:** Good _____ Fair _____ Poor _____

2. **Soil Type:** Sandy _____ Loam _____ Clay _____

3. **Topography:** Flat _____ Slope _____ Steep _____

4. **Crops Grown:** Vegetables _____ Fruits _____
Flowers _____ Lawn _____

Approximate size/dimensions of lawn/garden

5. **Light Exposure:** Full Sun _____ Part Shade _____
Shade _____ Heavy Shade _____

Shade due to: Buildings _____ Large Trees (please circle one) _____

6. Soil amendments:

Lime: _____ Manure/Composts/Organic Matter: _____
Spring _____ Fall _____ Spring _____ Fall _____
Amount _____ Amount _____

7. **Fertilizers Applied:** Analysis (ID. 10-6-4) _____
Vegetable Garden (lbs./sq. ft.) _____
Grass (lbs./sq. ft.) _____



Soil Test Prices

Non-member Member

	Basic Test	Lawn/Garden Test	Lawn/Garden Plus
Non-member	\$30	\$40	\$60
Member	\$20	\$30	\$50

Basic Test includes soil PH, Phosphorus (P1), & Potassium (K) with fertility recommendations.

Lawn/Garden test includes Basic Test plus organic matter and recommendations on amount & timing of fertilizer.

Lawn/Garden Plus includes everything from Basic and Lawn/Garden tests, plus micronutrients iron, zinc, manganese, copper, sulfur, and boron.

How To Collect Your Soil Sample

1. For one soil test, collect five soil samples from several locations in your yard/garden by cutting a one inch hole about six inches deep (three inches deep for existing lawn), you should have at least one cup of soil. Do not include any dead or live plant material in the sample. Problem areas should not be included in the composite sample. Do not include live/dead grass in the sample. Place sample in a quart size sealable plastic bag.

2. Complete the soil test form on opposite page. Please be as detailed as possible – the more we know, the better your recommendations.

3. Bring sample to the Lake County Farm Bureau office at 70 US Hwy 45, Grayslake IL 60030. Monday – Thursday 8:30-5:00 Friday 8:30-3:30. Cash or check are acceptable forms of payment.

Results will be mailed directly to your home in 7-14 days.

Questions? Call 847-223-6506