



**George Leigh Minor Plant and Soil Health Center**

Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory  
 University of Connecticut  
 27A Manter Road, Storrs, CT 06269  
 860-486-4274 soiltesting.cahn.uconn.edu



*\*\*Counties in several states have invasive pest QUARANTINES! If you live in [these areas](#), there is an additional disposal fee of \$20 per sample. The USDA APHIS website has information regarding which US counties are quarantined.\*\**

**Form For: Home Gardens, Landscapers\* and Lawns\***

See soil sampling instructions. Fill out this sheet and place in mailing envelop or small box along with your sample and a check made payable to UConn for the appropriate amount. Send to the above address.

How would you like to receive results?

**Name:**

**Business:**

Mail

**Address:**

Email

**Town, State, Zip:**

**County:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

*For Lab Use Only*

Sample ID/Name <i>(Choose a name you will remember)</i>	Crop code <b>(scroll down for list)</b> <i>Can choose multiple, limit 3 per sample</i>	Standard Nutrient Analysis <i>Includes pH (Enter \$18)</i>	Fee for extra tests <i>(Enter total cost if requested)</i>	Total Cost per sample	LAB #	pH	Buffer pH
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							

**Total Enclosed (check payable to UConn):**

If you have specific problems that you want addressed by the horticulturists at the UConn Home & Garden Education Center, describe them here or on a separate sheet:

If submitting more than 5 samples, fill out and print **ADDITIONAL SOIL SAMPLES FORM**.

If requesting additional tests, like organic matter or soluble salts, fill out **ADDITIONAL TEST FORM**.

**\*Discount Policy for Commercial** landscapers/lawn care companies submitting samples in bulk.

*Office use only*

\$ Received

check #



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COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
HEALTH AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES

EXTENSION & PLANT SCIENCE  
AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

# SOIL SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS

## FOR HOME GARDENS, LANDSCAPERS & LAWNS

**Note:** Soil tests aid in diagnosing only those problems resulting from a lack or excess of certain plant nutrients and/or incorrect soil pH (level of acidity or alkalinity). Other factors that may adversely affect plant growth include soil drainage, rainfall, amount of sunlight, insects, plant diseases, weeds, winter injury and misuse of pesticides or other chemicals. None of these is identified by a soil test. For questions on these types of problems, contact the [UConn Home & Garden Education Center](http://www.uconn.edu/home-garden-education-center) at (877) 486-6271 or the [UConn Plant Diagnostic Lab](http://www.uconn.edu/plant-diagnostic-lab).

You typically will receive soil test results and fertilizer recommendations within **7 to 10 business days** from receipt of your sample except during our busy months of **April and May when it may take 14 business days or more**. Do not apply more than the recommended amount of fertilizer. Too much nitrogen and/or phosphorus can pollute ground and surface waters.

Limestone and fertilizer recommendations based on improperly taken soil samples may be inaccurate and, possibly, harmful to plants. Follow the instructions below to obtain a representative sample. Submit one cup of soil for the standard nutrient analysis and two cups if additional tests, like organic matter or soil texture, are also requested.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This test is not suitable for **SOILLESS MEDIA** (such as potting mixes for containers) or **COMPOSTS**.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you requested your results via email, please check your SPAM folder. The email with your results would be coming from **CAHNR – Soil Nutrient Lab**.

### **Filling out the soil sample submission form:**

1. Please fill out the home gardens, landscapers & lawns submission form to accompany your sample(s) and print it. It is especially important to list the crop codes for which recommendations are wanted. We cannot make recommendations without knowing the crop being grown.
2. Areas differing in appearance, slope, drainage, limestone or fertilizer treatments or intended plant usage should be sampled and tested separately. Examples:
  - a. The lawn should be sampled separately from the vegetable garden.
  - b. The blueberry patch should be sampled separately from the perennial garden.
  - c. Areas under shade trees should be sampled separately from the lawn surrounding them.
  - d. That portion of the vegetable garden recently limed or fertilized should be sampled separately from the portion not limed or fertilized.
  - e. Wait one month after compost or manure is added to garden beds before testing the soil.
  - f. The upslope, dry part of the lawn should be sampled separately from the downslope, wet part of the lawn.
  - g. Areas around shrubs should be sampled separately from the lawn.
3. Where poor growth exists, take samples from both the good and bad areas, if possible, and submit them separately.
4. If there is a question you would like the horticulturists at the UConn Home & Garden Education Center to address, please list it on the bottom of the form or on a separate sheet of paper.
5. Commercial lawn care professionals or landscapers submitting 10 or more soil samples at one time may be interested in our [multi-sample discount policy](#).

### **When and how to sample:**

1. Samples may be collected any time of year the ground is not frozen. The waiting period for results is longest in April and May. Testing the soil in the fall is highly recommended.
2. Using a spade, trowel or bulb planter, collect cores or thin slices of soil from 10 or more random, evenly distributed spots in your sample area, to the appropriate depth indicated.
  - a. Grass - 3 to 4 inches
  - b. Flowers, vegetables, small fruits - 6 to 8 inches
  - c. Trees and shrubs - 8 to 10 inches
3. Put the slices or cores of soil into a clean container and thoroughly mix them. Transfer at least ONE CUP of the soil mixture to a plastic zippered bag and seal.
4. Label each plastic bag on the outside (using a permanent marker) with the name of the sample area (create a sample ID).
5. Place the plastic bag in a mailing envelop or small box along with the sample submission form and a check made payable to University of Connecticut (\$15/sample for standard nutrient analysis) and mail it to:

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### Crops

NOTE: Recommendations are typically made on a  
 100 or 1000 SQUARE FOOT basis

#### Home Landscapes/Lawns

New Lawn Construction
Established Lawn
Home Vegetable, Mixed (includes rhubarb and asparagus)
Home Vegetable Cucurbits
Home Vegetable Sweet Corn
Home Vegetable Peppers & Herbs
Home Vegetables Potatoes
Flowers - Annuals, Perennials, Bulbs & Grasses
Roses
Wildflowers/Ferns
Deciduous Trees & Shrubs
Needleleaf Trees & Shrubs
Broadleaf & Acid-Loving Trees & Shrubs
Groundcovers
Vines
Home Fruit - Blueberries To Be Planted
Home Fruit - Blueberries Maintain
Home Fruit - Brambles, Currants & Gooseberries To Be Planted
Home Fruit - Brambles, Currants & Gooseberries Maintain
Home Fruit - Strawberries To Be Planted
Home Fruit - Strawberries Maintain
Home Fruit - Grapes, American To Be Planted
Home Fruit - Grapes, American Maintain
Home Fruit -Grapes, European To Be Planted
Home Fruit - Grapes, European Maintain
Home Fruit - Tree Fruits To Be Planted
Home Fruit - Tree Fruits Maintain

### Crop Codes

HL1
HL2
HV1
HV2
HV3
HV4
HV5
HFL1
HFL2
HFL3
HW1
HW2
HW3
HW4
HW5
HFR1E
HFR1M
HFR2E
HFR2M
HFR3E
HFR3M
HFR4E
HFR4M
HFR5E
HFR5M
HFR6E
HFR6M