

TESTING YOUR LAWN & GARDEN SOIL



4 STEPS:

1. Use a core device, auger, trowel, spade or other tool to collect slender cores, columns or slices of soil 6 inches in depth (3 inches on established lawns) and of a uniform diameter or thickness.
2. Take 10 or more columns or slices, at random, from the area to be tested. Combine, crumble and blend the columns or cores thoroughly, in a clean container, removing any stones, grass or roots.
3. Take 1 pound or 1 pint of the mixture in a small clean container to the University of Missouri Extension Center in your county.
4. Provide complete information with the sample:
 - Past soil treatment
 - Uses of the soil
 - Problems that prompted test
 - Abnormal or troublesome soil condition.

There is a small fee for testing the soil.

NOTE:

Soil test detect shortages of major plant nutrients in soil, which seriously affect growth and development of plants. The test does not identify or measure insects, fungi, pesticides or contaminants.

PRECAUTIONS:

- ⊗ Avoid taking cores from small areas which are abnormal or different, such as backfilled ditches or under shrubs which have been given extra fertilizer.
- ⊗ If a lawn or garden has 2 or more distinctly different types of soil, such as fill soil in 1 area and native soil in another, take separate samples.
- ⊗ Do not take samples to be included in a large sampled area from small spots where grass, vegetable plants or flowers have suddenly died or changed colors
- ⊗ Avoid taking samples when the soil is wet. Samples that are moist should be spread to dry before submitting.

THE RESULTS:

A written report of results and recommendations will be mailed to you as soon as it is completed. The normal waiting period is 14 to 20 days. During peak periods, up to 6 weeks of delay have occurred when gardeners have failed to plan ahead. To avoid delays, submit samples at any time throughout summer or winter and avoid the rush periods of March to May and August to September.

For more information, call (816) 252-5051

or go online:

<http://soilplantlab.missouri.edu>

<http://mgkc.org>

HAVE A GARDENING QUESTION?
CALL THE MASTER GARDENER HOTLINE
(816) 833-TREE (8733)

March – October 9-3pm

WHERE DO I TAKE MY SOIL TEST?

<u>Jackson County</u> <u>Ext. Center</u>	<u>Cass County Ext.</u> <u>Center</u>	<u>Clay County Ext.</u> <u>Center</u>	<u>Platte County</u> <u>Ext. Center</u>
1106 W. Main Street Blue Springs, MO 64015	Courthouse 3 rd Floor 102 E. Wall Street, Harrisonville, MO 64701	Courthouse Annex 1901 NE 48 th Street, Kansas City, MO 64118	11724 Plaza Circle, Ste. 300 Kansas City, MO 64153