

How To Take A Soil Sample

- Remove surface debris, such as plant residues, mulch or turf thatch from the soil before inserting the soil probe, spade, or trowel.
- Sample gardens and shrub and flower beds to a depth of 6-8 inches.
- Sample turf areas to a 3-inch depth.
- Sample tree root zones to 8-12 inches or deeper.
- Sample row crops (in gardens) between the rows to avoid fertilizer bands.
- Sample light, dark-colored, limed and unlimed areas separately.
- Sample front and back yard separately if they have been managed differently or contain different types of fill soil.
- Dry samples at room temperature (do not use artificial heat).
- Break up any lumps and remove all stones, debris, etc.
- When dry, mix well and crush so all the soil is the size of wheat grains or smaller, but do not pulverize.
- Place one cup sample in a clean, clear plastic container or bag, labeled with your name.



**This material may be available in alternative formats.
<http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-71.pdf>
For more information on the subject discussed in this
publication, consult your local office of the Purdue University
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Soil Testing Available at Your Floyd County Purdue Extension Office

Why do you test your soil?

- ◆ Nitrogen (N)
- ◆ Phosphorous (P)
- ◆ Potassium (K)
- ◆ Soil pH (a measure of acidity or alkalinity)

When can you take a Soil Sample?

- ◆ Anytime
- ◆ Well before planting
- ◆ Once every three to five years

When do I get my Soil Sample results back?

- ◆ It usually takes two to four weeks to receive your results via email.

What is the cost of a Soil Sample Test?

- ◆ There is a \$20.00 fee for each Soil Sample Test (cash or check only—Ck to Purdue CES Ed Fund)

What type of Soil Samples are tested in the office?

- ◆ Turf/Lawn (3 inches deep)
- ◆ Flower Garden (4-6 inches deep)
- ◆ Vegetable Garden (4-6 inches deep)
- ◆ Trees/Shrubs (4-8 inches deep)
 - ◆ Fruits (4-6 inches deep)
- ◆ We do not test Agricultural or Commercial Hort samples

How do I take a Soil Sample?

- ◆ See Reverse

www.extension.purdue.edu/floyd