

SOIL TESTING IS . . .

an inventory of the nutrients and acidity in the soil.

Why a Soil Test?

Soil, in its natural state, is rarely fertile enough for the best growth of plants. Usually, it is necessary to supplement the earth's store of plant nutrients before we can obtain the most vigorous lawn, the most abundant and brilliant flowers, the most aesthetically satisfying trees/shrubs and the greatest yield of tasty and nutritious vegetables, or crops. Test your soil pH, potassium, phosphorous and key elements to begin the soil improvement process.

When to Soil Test?

Proper sampling is vitally important in order to obtain accurate soil test results. Soil samples can be taken any time during the warmer months. Each sample should be taken when soil temperature is **above 55 degrees**. If the soil is too wet to spade, rototill, or hoe, it is also too wet to sample. Extremely dry soil should not be sampled.

How Often?

After the initial soil inventory, the soil should be retested every 3-5 years. Intensive use may dictate more frequent testing. Attempt to sample during the same season each time for the best comparison of soil test values.

Farm Bureau Connection:

The Cook County Farm Bureau originally started in 1920 with a purpose of soil improvement and assisting farmers with nutrient/fertility issues on their property. The program is an extension of our beginning purpose and a service to our members and community.

ADDITIONAL HELP

Additional recommendations based on your soil sample results will be provided to you from the soil testing lab. However, we know sometimes its nice to talk with an expert about the results and what to do to improve the potential of your soil.

University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners are available to answer your questions on specific issues related to your soil test. Take advantage of their knowledge and training to enhance your "growing" experiences.

MASTER GARDENER RESOURCE CENTER AT:

COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU®
APRIL TO NOVEMBER

QUESTIONS...

EMAIL:

mastergardener@cookcfb.org
membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org

Other Extension Help Desks:

Cook/North Suburban Master Gardener 847-201-4176
Cook/South Suburban Master Gardener 708-679-6889

Join the Cook County Farm Bureau!
We're a grassroots organization made up of individuals with an interest in food and agriculture!



Soil Testing Program



COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU®

6438 Joliet Rd Ste 101

Countryside, IL 60525

708-354-3276 | cookcfb.org

ccfb@cookcfb.org

- **What's wrong with this lawn?**
- **Why won't my garden grow?**
- **The flowers need something...**
- **Why aren't these shrubs performing?**
- **These crops aren't yielding like they should!**

Soil testing takes the guesswork out of soil improvement, growing plants, and fertilizer recommendations.



Soil Test Pricing Information

Each soil sample will be tested for:
soil pH, Phosphorous, Potassium, Calcium, Magnesium, Organic Matter, and Cat ion Exchange Capacity.

1 Sample Soil Kit:

\$30.00 Members

\$40.00 Non-paid members

2 Sample Soil Kit:

\$40.00 Members

\$50.00 Non-paid members

3 Sample Soil Kit:

\$60.00 Members

\$70.00 Non-paid members

Soil and Lead Testing Kit:

\$58.00 Members

\$68.00 Non-paid members

Lead Only Soil Test Kit:

\$47.00 Members

\$57.00 Non-paid members

**Prices subject to change without notice.*

Order & Payment Methods **via Phone, Walk In, or Mail**

- ◆ **Credit Card** by phone or in person (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, Debit)
 - ◆ **Check** payable to the CCFB can be mailed with kit request or in person at office
 - ◆ **Cash** can be paid in person at office*
- *Members...ask about additional cost savings option*

All phone or mail in payments will results in kits mailed to address provided.

Not a member...Join the Farm Bureau and receive member advantage pricing!

How To Order a Soil Test...

Contact the Cook County Farm Bureau® to request your soil test kit - by phone, mail, or in our office.

Soil Testing Steps ...

1. Take a sample following the guidelines and fill the **kit sample bag** to the "fill line".
2. Complete **Form 1 included in kit.**
3. Mail completed **Form 1 & soil sample bag in pre-paid and pre-labeled USPS mailing box**, included in the kit.
4. Mail at your nearest mail receptacle or box—no need to go to the post office.
5. Complete **Form 2** (soil sample information sheet) and mail it using the pre-addressed stamped envelop **included in kit.**
6. Soil **test results** and basic lab recommendations will be **emailed.** Master Gardeners will be included on your results email.

Within 10 days, a **follow up email** from a Master Gardener will be sent offering additional recommendations and information to help understand results and take action to enjoy healthier soils and the exciting results!