



Soil Testing

TESTING YOUR LAWN & GARDEN SOIL

Soil tests 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. The University of Missouri Extension Centers and the Kansas State Extension Centers provide soil testing services for a small fee. Steps testing your soil and contact information is below.

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 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

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 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 1 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.

WHERE DO I TAKE MY SOIL TEST?

University of Missouri Extension Center
105 East 5th St., Kansas City, MO 64106

University of Missouri Extension Center
1501 W. Jefferson, Blue Springs, MO 64015

Cass County Extension Center – Courthouse Annex #3
302 S. Main Street, Harrisonville, MO 64701

Clay County Extension Center – Courthouse Annex
1891 NE 48th Street, Kansas City, MO 64118

Johnson County K-State Research Extension
11811 S. Sunset Drive, Suite 1500, Olathe, KS 66061

Wyandotte County K-State Research Extension
1216 North 79th Street, Kansas City, KS 66112

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

In Missouri, call 816-252-5051 or <http://www.soiltest.psu.missouri.edu>

In Kansas, call 913-715-7050 or email at garden.help@jocogov.org