

Soil Testing

Why Test?

- to optimize crop production.
- to protect the environment from contamination by runoff and leaching of excess fertilizers.
- to aid in the diagnosis of plant culture problems.
- to improve the soil's nutritional balance.
- to save money and conserve energy by applying only the amount of fertilizer needed.
- to identify soils contaminated with lead or other heavy metals.

A soil test can be a valuable tool in assessing and preventing horticultural, agronomic, and some environmental problems. The tests listed above **do not** identify plant growth problems associated with soil drainage, insects, plant diseases (whether soil-borne or not), weeds, winter injury and the misuse of pesticides.

Pesticide residues and petroleum contaminants are **not identified** by these tests. Analyses for these are expensive, but may be obtained through the private sector.

Where to Send Order

Please return the completed order form with your soil sample(s) and a check made payable to **University of Massachusetts** to:

Soil Testing Laboratory
West Experiment Station
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003-8020

For more information, call the Soil Testing Lab at (413) 545-2311.
Web: <http://www.umass.edu/plsoils/soiltest>

Crop List

Use the following list to tell us what you plan to grow in each soil submitted. **Please limit your choices to one or two.**

1. Vegetables
2. Annual & Perennial Herbs and Flowers
3. Roses
4. New Lawn (pre-construction)
5. Established Lawn (post-construction)
6. Small Fruit (specify type, ex. strawberries)
7. Tree Fruit
8. Needleleaf Evergreens
9. Deciduous Shrubs, Trees, and Vines
10. Ericaceous Shrubs and Groundcovers
11. Commercial Crops (give crop, and site details)
12. Other reasons for testing (specify details)

If more than one sample is submitted, **please label** each sample on the **outside** of bag.



UMass Extension Newsletters

Garden Clippings... for home gardeners; Provides a checklist of monthly gardening activities; Monthly March through October; \$10.00/year, check payable to UMass; **Send to:** Garden Clippings, French Hall, 230 Stockbridge Road, UMass, Amherst, MA 01003.

Hort Notes... for professional landscapers and grounds managers; Alerts reader to emerging landscape pests and timely plant health care problems; Bi-weekly from March through October; \$20.00/year, check payable to UMass; **Send to:** Hort Notes, French Hall, 230 Stockbridge Road, UMass, Amherst, MA 01003.

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West Experiment Station

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