

Soil Testing Kit

Includes:

Taking a Soil Test instruction sheet
Soil sample bag with mailing label inside
Soil Information Sheet
Services and Fees schedule

Taking a Soil Test - Instruction Sheet

What you get:

- Analysis of the current nutrient content of your soil.
- Current soil pH.
- Recommendation of type and amount of fertilizer to add.

What you need:

- Two cups of soil (an air-dried sample is preferred and is cheaper to send in the mail).
- Take soil from five or six places in the area to be tested, mix together, and submit two cups of this mixture in a clean plastic bag. If you are submitting more than one soil sample from different areas, each two cup soil sample must be in a separate bag.
- Sample turf areas 4-6 inches deep, and garden or other areas 6 inches deep.

When to sample:

- Any time the soil is not frozen.
- Before applying any fertilizer.

How to submit the sample:

- Make sure the soil sample bags are labeled.
- Fill out the attached Soil Information Sheet.
- Make a check or money order payable to *UW Soil Testing Lab* for the desired amount.
- Place the soil bag, information sheet, and check or money order in a mailing container (checkbox boxes work good for sending single samples).
- Address box to UW Soil & Forage Analysis Lab, 2611 East 29th Street, Marshfield, WI 54449 and mail.
- You should receive the results of the test and recommendations within one to two weeks.
- If you have difficulty understanding the results, call the UW-Extension Area Agriculture Agents Office at 715-635-3506 or 1-800-528-1914. They can help you read and understand the results.

Instructions for Submitting Samples:

Customer Information – Print your **name and address** in the space provided. **Check** the appropriate box as to how you wish to receive your results. Your results can be mailed through U.S. mail, emailed or faxed. Note that receiving the results by email is the quickest form in which you will receive your results. Please fill in your email or fax number if this is how you would prefer to receive your results.

Payment Information – Enter your **account number** or the **amount** paid. The cost is **\$15.00 per sample**.

Indicate the **method** of payment (cash, check, or credit card information) you are making. **Please make checks payable to: UW Soil Testing Lab.**

Your sample will be analyzed for pH, organic matter, available phosphorous (P) and available potassium (K). Based on the results of your test and what you told us you wish to grow in the sample area, we will tell you if you need to add nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P) or potassium (K) to achieve your goal of growing these plants. We will provide you with the pH of your soil and advise you on whether or not you should lime your soil. We will also provide you with the percent of organic matter which is currently in your soil.

Some common additional tests are as follows: lead, soluble salts, or physical analysis. Other tests include the secondary nutrients: calcium, magnesium, or sulfur or the micronutrients boron, manganese, and zinc.

Required Sample Size: 2 cups

Sample Description – **Name** your sample. In other words, describe your sample or the area in which the sample was taken so you are able to identify which sample corresponds to which results. (This is particularly important if several samples are submitted at the same time). Indicate the **county** in Wisconsin where the sample was taken from (this is important for us to provide recommendations). Choose the appropriate **Landscape Category** from the list which BEST describes the plants to be grown (for example, M4 for a mixed bed of annual and perennial flowers and shrubs). Only **one** landscape category per sample, please. We recommend that you provide us with different samples per landscape category.

Topsoil Samples – If sampling from a pile of topsoil, recommendations will be given assuming the entire area will be spread with at least 6 inches of new topsoil. If the entire top 6 inches will not be replaced and the new topsoil will be spread over the existing soil, take the sample after spreading.

Submitting Samples – Send your sample by U.S. mail, UPS or other delivery system OR drop your sample off at the address below. Please be sure to include this sheet.

Soil & Forage Analysis Lab
2611 Yellowstone Dr.
Marshfield WI 54449

Phone: (715) 387-2523
Hours: 7:45 to 4:30 Monday – Friday

Results may take 10 days from the time we receive your sample for you to receive your results, but this may vary depending on the time of year. If you do not receive your results after 2 weeks, please call. Thank you!

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This form is also available on our website at: <http://uwlab.soils.wisc.edu>