

SOIL SAMPLING



Better Preparation for a Better Lawn

Soil testing helps you to be a more responsible homeowner while encouraging top performance from your yard.

Analysis will tell you the pH, soluble salts, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, calcium, sodium, organic matter and impurities in your soil.

By learning the composition of your soil, Blue Grass can help you develop a personalized yard improvement program based on the actual needs of your soil. Knowing which nutrients are lacking (or abundant) makes you a better informed homeowner and more environmentally conscientious.

Three Considerations

- Use the proper equipment. Using the wrong kind of equipment can give you inaccurate results.
- Get a good sampling. Don't just sample from one area or to the wrong depth.
- When your sample results come back, we can help you interpret them and design a fertilization plan that will make your lawn the best it can be.



www.bgsod.com

 Blue Grass Enterprises, Inc.

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Soil Testing For Lawns

One of the most important steps in soil testing is collecting the sample. Soil test results can be no better than the sample submitted to the laboratory. A soil sample weighing about one pound is used to represent thousands of pounds of soil in the lawn. Therefore, it is extremely important that soil samples be properly taken.

Equipment

- Use a trowel or sampling tube to collect soil samples.
- Use clean sampling tools and containers to ensure the sample is not contaminated.
- Never use tools or containers that have been used for mixing or applying fertilizer. A small amount of residue can cause serious contamination of the sample.
- Do not use any galvanized tools - these will also tamper with your results

A Good Soil Sample Should Be Representative of the Area

- Take soil from a minimum of 10 random locations in the sampled area and mix together in a clean bucket. **We will need a total of one quart of soil for the sample.** Be sure to take a soil sample before applying any fertilizers to your lawn!

Sample to the Proper Depth

- Remove any plant tissue such as the green leaf, thatch or clippings.
- For lawns, sample to a depth of 3 inches.
- To use a trowel or spade, push the tool to the desired depth then push the handle forward while the tool is still in the soil making a wide opening. Cut a thin slice from the side of the opening that is of uniform thickness--about 1/4 inch thick and 2 inches wide, extending from the top of the ground to the depth of the cut. Scrape away any grass thatch or mulch, and place into a clean bucket. After the soil is taken, remove the tool and let the soil fall back in place.

Collection and Submittal

- All cores taken for a given soil sample should be collected in a clean bucket and thoroughly mixed.
- Bring the sample to Blue Grass Enterprises. We will ask you some basic contact questions, take your payment, send your sample to the lab, then contact you with recommendations when the analysis has returned.

