



Garden Soil pH Test Form

Have QUESTIONS? Email: amj22@cornell.edu Call: Master Gardener Hotline 518-372-1622

Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____ Email _____	<i>For Office Use</i> pH Test \$5.00 per Sample # of Samples X \$5 = _____ Paid By Cash Check # _____ Date Received By _____ Date Sample/s Collected _____
---	--

What will you be growing? ___Vegetables ___Annuals & Perennial Flowers ___Fruit: Blueberries ___Other

— FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY —

Sample Area: _____ Soil Type: ___ Sand ___ Sandy Loam ___ Loam ___ Clay Loam ___ Clay pH: _____	___ Soil pH is fine. Do not add Lime, Sulfur or Wood Ash. ___ Soil pH is too HIGH. Lower to by adding ___ lbs. of Sulfur per 100 square feet. ___ Soil pH is too LOW. Raise pH to 6.5 by adding ___ lbs. of Lime per 100 square feet. *NOTE: These recommendations are for this season only. Please have your soil retested next year for accurate updated recommendations.
Sample Area: _____ Soil Type: ___ Sand ___ Sandy Loam ___ Loam ___ Clay Loam ___ Clay pH: _____	___ Soil pH is fine. Do not add Lime, Sulfur or Wood Ash. ___ Soil pH is too HIGH. Lower to by adding ___ lbs. of Sulfur per 100 square feet. ___ Soil pH is too LOW. Raise pH to 6.5 by adding ___ lbs. of Lime per 100 square feet. *NOTE: These recommendations are for this season only. Please have your soil retested next year for accurate updated recommendations.

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for providing equal program and employment opportunities in accordance with applicable laws.

If you have a disability and are having trouble accessing information within this email or need materials in an alternate format, contact amj22@cornell.edu for assistance.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTING SOIL

When should soil be sampled?

Soil samples can be taken at any time during the year; however, avoid extremely wet soil conditions unless absolutely necessary.

What tool shall I use for sampling?

A soil probe or auger is best; if not available, use a garden spade or shovel.

What is the proper sampling depth?

For cultivated crops and gardens, sample at 0 - 1" and another at 1 - 6" depth.

For **lawns and pastures**, a sample from the upper 6" is satisfactory; remove plant residue.

For **tree and fruit crops**, 2 samples should be submitted, one taken at 0 - 8" depth, the other at 8 - 16" (subsoil layer).

How do I go about collecting the sample? With a shovel, dig a hole to the sampling depth. Cut a ½" slice from the face of the hole and trim the sides so you have a vertical slice of soil.

How many sub-samples should I collect from each area?

Repeat the sampling process in about 10 - 15 locations throughout the garden or field. Mix the sub-samples in a plastic bucket to obtain a representative composite sample. Avoid sampling in unusual areas if the objective is to estimate average fertility levels over the entire area.

What if I have an area of poor crop growth?

If you have a trouble spot, a separate sample taken from this area may be necessary.

Should the sample be dry?

Do not bring in wet samples. If it is necessary to sample wet soil, spread the sample on a sheet of newspaper and allow it to dry at room temperature.

How much soil is needed for each composite sample?

About one cup is required.

Where do I bring samples?

Mondays and Thursday, 9:30 am to Noon

The Sustainable Living Center and Greenhouses
180 PTL Arthur Chaires Lane, Central Park, Schenectady.
We are located next to the tennis courts.

Testing for pH alone is done on-site; nutrient and specialized tests are sent out to an area laboratory. For more details on available tests, and to download the forms required for each, please visit our page on "**Soil Testing Services**".

How long will it take to get test results? pH tests are conducted at the Cooperative Extension Education Center and take from 1 - 3 days.

What if I have questions about the results? Call us at (518) 372-1622 ext. 255

How much does the test cost?

pH test - \$5.00

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAILING THE SOIL SAMPLE:

Once you have collected the soil sample, mail approximately one cup of soil, along with the completed soil testing form and payment to:

Cornell Cooperative Extension, Schenectady County
107 Nott Terrace, Suite 301
Schenectady, NY 12308