Cornell Cooperative Extension
Schenectady County

Schaffer Heights
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www.cceschenectady.org

Lawn 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 _____

For Office Use

pH Test $5.00 per Sample

# of Samples X $5 = _____

Paid By Cash Check # _____

Date Received By _____

Date Sample/s Collected _____

—— 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 1000 square feet.
*Do not apply more than 5 lbs. of Sulfur at a time & do not make application in the heat of Summer. If the recommendation exceeds 5lbs., split the amount in half and apply one half in Spring and half in Fall.

___ Soil pH is too LOW. Raise pH to 6.5 by adding___lbs. of Lime per 1000 square feet.
*Do not apply more than 50 lbs. of lime per 1000 sq. ft. at one time. If recommendation exceeds 50 lbs., split amount in half and apply one half in Spring and half in Fall.

NOTE: These recommendations are for this season only. Please have your soil retested next year for accurate updated recommendations.

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Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

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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

1. 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.

2. What tool shall I use for sampling?
A soil probe or auger is best; if not available, use a garden spade or shovel.

3. 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).

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. How much soil is needed for each composite sample?
About one cup is required.

9. 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"**.

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

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

12. 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:

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107 Nott Terrace, Suite 301
Schenectady, NY 12308