

The University of Connecticut Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory offers several tests which may be of interest to gardeners, homeowners and commercial growers. Limestone and fertilizer recommendations are based on soil test results. Soil testing will not identify problems due to insects, diseases, poor cultural practices, pesticide misuse or climatic factors. The lab cannot test for soil contaminants other than heavy metals.

The University of Connecticut's Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory has proved to be a valuable resource to the citizens of Connecticut for over six decades

TESTS OFFERED INCLUDE:

A. Standard Nutrient Analysis \$8.00

Includes soil pH, calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, iron, manganese, zinc, copper, boron, aluminum and lead screening. Limestone and fertilizer recommendations are given. The standard nutrient analysis is recommended for most lawn and garden samples.

B. Soil pH \$3.00

Includes soil pH level and limestone recommendations. *Note: pH is included in test A.*

C. Percent Organic Matter \$7.00

This analysis gives a measurement of the percentage of organic matter in the soil by loss on ignition. Between 4% and 8% is ideal for most garden and landscape purposes.

D. Soil Textural Analysis \$12.00

Determines percentages of sand, silt and clay and soil is categorized according to USDA classification.

E. Soluble Salts \$3.00

Provides a measure of electrical conductivity using a 1:2 (soil:water) extract. Elevated levels typically indicate overfertilization or exposure to road salts.

*For a complete listing of testing services, visit our website: www.soiltest.uconn.edu.

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UConn HOME AND GARDEN EDUCATION CENTER

Issues or problems concerning home horticulture, pesticides, insects and their control, food safety, nutrition, water quality, lead testing, problem wildlife and indoor air quality can be directed to the UConn Home & Garden Education Center. They can be reached toll-free by calling (877) 486-6271 or by email at ladybug@uconn.edu or via the web at www.ladybug.uconn.edu.

UConn HOME & GARDEN NEWS

Subscribe to the UConn Home & Garden Education Center's bimonthly newsletter. The Home & Garden News addresses a wide range of topics important to residents of Connecticut. One year subscriptions to the Home & Garden News are available for \$10. Call the above toll-free number or visit the above website for subscription information.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION CENTERS

Fairfield County Extension Center
(203) 207-8440
Hartford County Extension Center
(860) 570-9010
Litchfield County Extension Center
(860) 626-6240
Middlesex County Extension Center
(860) 345-4511
New Haven County Extension Center
(203) 407-3161
New London County Extension Center
(860) 887-1608
Tolland County Extension Center
(860) 875-3331
Windham County Extension Center
(860) 774-9600
Master Gardeners at Bartlett Arboretum
(203) 322-6971
Publication Resource Center
(860) 486-3336



University of Connecticut

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

Department of Plant Science

Soil Testing



College of Agriculture
& Natural Resources

Prices effective 4/1/07

The University of Connecticut's Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory has proved to be a valuable resource to the citizens of Connecticut for over six decades.

Soil testing is an easy and inexpensive way to assess the fertility level of your soil.

WHY HAVE YOUR SOIL TESTED?

Applying the correct amounts of limestone and fertilizer can optimize plant performance, reduce cultural problems, and protect the environment from contamination due to excessive fertilizer run-off and leaching.

NEW! Lead screening is now included in our standard nutrient analysis. Results from the standard nutrient analysis will include measured nutrient and pH levels, the amounts of limestone and fertilizer needed for good growth, and an estimation of lead content. Clients with specific problems will receive additional advice from the experienced horticulturists at the UCONN Home and Garden Education Center. We are always happy to speak with you if you have questions regarding your results.

Applying the correct amounts of limestone and fertilizer can optimize plant performance

HOW TO COLLECT A SOIL SAMPLE

Samples should be representative of the area(s) to be tested. If your samples are collected improperly, the limestone and fertilizer recommendations you receive may be incorrect and may not benefit your plants.

WHEN SHOULD I SAMPLE?

Samples may be submitted any time of year, but fall is the best time. Avoid sampling areas that have recently been limed or fertilized.

HOW MANY SAMPLES DO I NEED?

Areas that are different in appearance, slope, drainage, intended plant use or past fertilizer applications should be sampled separately. If there has been some poor plant growth in an area, collect samples from both good and bad spots, and submit them separately.

HOW TO HAVE YOUR SOIL TESTED:

- 1) Follow the directions for collecting your soil sample.
- 2) Select which test(s) you want.
- 3) Fill out the questionnaire.
- 4) Send your soil, questionnaire and payment (check payable to University of Connecticut) to:

UCONN Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory
6 Sherman Place, Unit-5102
Storrs, CT 06269-5102

*Please call us for more information at:
(860) 486-4274*

COLLECT YOUR SOIL SAMPLE IN 4 EASY STEPS

1. For each area you want tested, use a clean spade or trowel, and take 10 or more slices of soil from different spots throughout the area of interest. Dig from the surface on down to the depth shown here:

If this is the plant	The depth should be
Grass	3 to 4 inches
Flowers, vegetables and small fruits	6 to 8 inches
Trees and shrubs	8 to 10 inches
*For lead testing only	1/2 to 2 inches

2. Place the slices from each area you want tested in a clean bucket.
3. Mix thoroughly and remove ONE CUP of soil for testing.
4. Place the cup of soil in a plastic bag and seal securely with twist tie or "zipper" lock.

Follow steps 1 through 4 for each different area that you want tested. If you are sending in samples from more than one area, be sure to label each bag on the outside with a unique sample name or number. Your sample, along with questionnaire and fees may be sent in a mailing envelope or small box.

QUESTIONNAIRE TO SUBMIT WITH SAMPLES

Name _____ Date _____
 Address _____
 City/State _____ Zip Code _____
 Phone Number _____

Exposure
 Heavy Shade Part Shade Full Sun
 Check here for information on organic fertilizers.
 Describe any specific problems in this area: _____

Plant Code	Plant	Name of Sample (For example: Front lawn, Vegetable garden, etc.)	Plant Code	Test Requested (circle test(s) requested)	Fee
1	Established Lawn	_____	_____	A B C D E	\$ _____
2	New Lawn Construction	_____	_____	A B C D E	\$ _____
3	Vegetables (specify kind)	_____	_____	A B C D E	\$ _____
4	Herbs	_____	_____	A B C D E	\$ _____
5	Flowers	_____	_____	A B C D E	\$ _____
6	Roses	_____	_____	A B C D E	\$ _____
7	Fruit (specify kind)	_____	_____	A B C D E	\$ _____
8	Shrubs (specify kind)	_____	_____	A B C D E	\$ _____
9	Trees (specify kind)	_____	_____	A B C D E	\$ _____
10	Groundcovers	_____	_____	A B C D E	\$ _____
11	Other	_____	_____	A B C D E	\$ _____
					Total \$ _____