

## When do I take my soil samples?

- Late summer to early spring
- 3 or more months after application of fertilizer or lime
- Avoid taking samples when soil is wet
- Plan ahead: use soil test report to purchase your fertilizer and amendments

## How often should I have my soil tested?

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Garden       | Every 1-2 years |
| Agricultural | Every 1-2 years |
| Pastures     | Every 1-4 years |
| Lawns        | Every 1-4 years |

## The WVU Soil Testing Laboratory



BEFORE

### Mailing your Samples:



Send completed and legible information sheet and soil to:

**WVU**

P.O. Box 6108  
Morgantown, WV 26506

AFTER



# How to take soil samples

Phone: (304)293-5375

E-mail: [jgormanwvu@gmail.com](mailto:jgormanwvu@gmail.com)

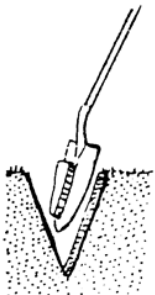
Website: [soiltesting.wvu.edu](http://soiltesting.wvu.edu)

# HOW TO SELECT AND SEND YOUR SAMPLES

## HOW DEEP SHOULD I TAKE MY SAMPLES?

Table 1

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Home Gardens                             | To Tillage Depth<br>approx. 6 inch                             |
| Agricultural Crops- Conventional tillage | To Tillage Depth<br>approx. 6 inches                           |
| Agricultural Crops- No-till              | Recommended two samples:<br>a) top 0-2 inches<br>b) bottom 2-6 |
| Pastures                                 | 2-4 inches   |
| Meadows                                  | 4-6 inches   |
| Lawns                                    | Existing: 4 inches   |



### For Areas less than 1 acre:

- Choose 7-10 locations throughout the entire area
- Using a spade, small shovel, auger or soil probe take a soil sample at the appropriate depth (see table 1)

- Place soil in a clean container
- Remove grass, debris, or rocks from the soil



Modified from: Soil moisture monitoring; low-cost tools and methods <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/viewhtml.php?id=111>; ATTRA

- Crumble and mix the soil
- Allow the mixed soil to air dry; if you can place the soil on a clean surface to speed up the drying process
- Place 1-2 cups of soil in a Ziploc bag
- Complete information sheet

### For 1-10 acre fields:

- Choose at least 15-30 locations throughout the entire area
- Using a spade, small shovel, auger or soil probe take a soil sample at the appropriate depth (see table 1)
- Place soil in a hard container
- Remove any grass, debris, or rocks from the soil
- Crumble and mix the soil
- Allow the mixed soil to air dry; if you can place the soil on a clean surface to speed up the drying time
- Place 1-2 cups of soil in a Ziploc bag
- Complete information sheet

