



Taking Soil Samples

THE WVU SOIL TESTING LAB

WHEN?

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

How often should I have my soil tested?

Garden	Every Fall
Agricultural crops	Every 1-2 years
Pastures	Every 3-4 years
Lawns	Every 4 years

For additional information visit : soiltesting.wvu.edu
or
your local extension office

HOW TO SELECT AND SEND YOUR SAMPLES

For Areas less than 1 acre:

- Choose 7-10 throughout the entire area
- Using a spade, auger or soil probe take a soil sample at the appropriate depth (see table below)
- Place samples in a hard container
- Remove any grass, debris, or rocks from the samples
- Crumble and mix the samples
- Allow the composite samples to air dry
- Place 1-2 cups of soil in a Ziploc bag

- Completely and legibly fill out the information sheet and attach it to the sample

For areas 1-10 acres:

- Choose at least 15-30 locations throughout the entire area
- Using a spade, auger or soil probe take a soil sample at the appropriate depth (see table below)
- Place samples in a hard container
- Remove any grass, debris, or rocks from the samples

- Crumble and mix the samples
- Allow the composite samples to air dry
- Place 1-2 cups of soil in a Ziploc bag
- Completely and legibly fill out the information sheet and attach it to the sample

Mailing your Samples:

Send samples in a box or padded envelope to:

WVU Soil Test Lab

PO Box 6108

Morgantown, WV 26505

HOW DEEP SHOULD I TAKE MY SAMPLES?

Home Gardens	To Tillage Depth
Agricultural Crops- Conventional Tillage	To Tillage Depth
Agricultural Crops- No -till	6 inches split in two samples: a) top 2 inches b) lower 4 inches
Pastures	2-4 inches
Meadows	4-6 inches
Lawns	Existing: 4 New: 6 inches