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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Garden</th>
<th>Every Fall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural crops</td>
<td>Every 1-2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastures</td>
<td>Every 3-4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawns</td>
<td>Every 4 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Crumble and mix the samples
- Allow the composite samples to air dry
- Place 1-2 cups of soil in a Ziploc bag

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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home Gardens</th>
<th>To Tillage Depth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Crops- Conventional Tillage</td>
<td>To Tillage Depth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Crops- No -till</td>
<td>6 inches split in two samples: a) top 2 inches b) lower 4 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastures</td>
<td>2-4 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meadows</td>
<td>4-6 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawns</td>
<td>Existing: 4 New: 6 inches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>