Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory

Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory, 6 Sherman Place, Unit 5102, Storrs, CT 06269-5102 • Phone: (860)486-4274, Fax: (860)486-4562
Location: Union Cottage, Depot Campus, Mansfield

SOIL SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS FOR AGRONOMIC GROWERS

WHEN AND HOW TO SAMPLE

1. Late October or early November is usually the best time to sample, but samples may be taken at any time during the year when temperature (lack of frost) and moisture conditions permit.
2. Areas differing in topography, drainage, soil texture, manure additions, soil organic matter content (light colored versus dark colored) or intended crop usage should be sampled and tested separately.
3. Under no circumstances should samples represent areas larger than 15 acres.
4. Avoid sampling unusual spots such as former sites of manure piles and areas where lime or fertilizer has been spilled in previous years.
5. It is imperative that the soil sample represent accurately the entire sampling area. To obtain a representative sample, take a uniform core or thin slice of soil from at least 20 evenly distributed places within a given area. Sample the plow layer. Put the slices or cores in a clean container and thoroughly mix them. One cup of this soil mixture constitutes the soil sample.

PREPARING THE SAMPLE FOR SUBMISSION TO THE LABORATORY

1. Soil may be sent immediately to the soil testing lab.
2. Transfer one cup of the soil mixture to a zipper lock bag and seal.
3. Be sure to label the outside of the sample bag with your sample name or number, and include a check payable to the *University of Connecticut* for $12.00per sample.

FILLING OUT THE SOIL SAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Please fill out the agronomic grower questionnaire if you want lime and fertilizer recommendations It is especially important to check the crop for which recommendations are wanted.
2. Fertilizer recommendations for new seedings are different from those for maintenance situations. Therefore, be sure to indicate if the crop has been planted.
3. Because manure additions supply plant nutrients, downward adjustments in recommended rates of fertilizer are made when manure is applied for a crop. Try to provide as accurate an estimate as you can of the kind and rate of manure used.
4. If multiple samples are being sent at one time, be sure to label the outside of each bag with a sample name and/or number. Click here for information on our multi-sample discount policy for commercial growers, or contact the lab at (860) 486-4274
5. After filling out the questionnaire, place it in a mailing envelop or small box, along with your soil sample check and send to:

UConn Soil Testing Laboratory
6 Sherman Place, Unit-5102
Storrs, CT 06269-5102

University of Connecticut
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Cooperative Extension System

SOIL SAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR AGRONOMIC GROWERS

Name_____ Date_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____ Phone_____

Sample name or number (limit to 12 characters)_____ Sample represents_____acres

CROP FOR WHICH RECOMMENDATIONS ARE WANTED (CHECK ONE)

☐ Corn for silage: Yield goal, tons per acre: ☐ 16 ☐ 18 ☐ 20 ☐ 25 ☐ other (specify) _____

☐ Corn for silage: Yield goal, tons per acre: ☐ 80 ☐ 100 ☐ 120 ☐ 140 ☐ other (specify) _____

☐ Hay; alfalfa and mixtures containing more than 50% alfalfa

☐ Hay; legumes other than alfalfa (clover, trefoil, etc.) and mixtures containing more than 50% of such legumes

☐ Hay; timothy, bromegrass,"grass"

☐ Small grains or soybeans

☐ Other (specify)_____

☐ Millet, sudangrass, sudangrass hybrids

☐ Orchardgrass, reed-canarygrass,tall fescue, ryegrass

☐ Mixed legume-grass pasture

☐ Grass pasture

☐ Horse pasture

IS THE CROP CHECKED ABOVE PLANTED YET?

☐ Yes (go to 4 below) ☐ No (please answer questions 1-3 below)

1. Crop Presently Growing or Most Recently Grown on this Field (check one):

☐ Corn for silage ☐ Corn for grain ☐ Good alfalfa (60-100%) ☐ Fair alfalfa(20-60%)

☐ Good clover (60-100%) ☐ Fair clover (20-60%) ☐ Grass hay ☐ Other (specify)_____

2. Kind of seeding (Check one):): ☐ Conventional ☐ No–till* 3. Month of seeding_____

**No-till seeding of legumes is not recommended if soil pH is less than 5.6 (clover) or 6.0 (alfalfa).*

4. Manure/Organic Waste Applied or to be Applied for this Crop (check one):

☐ None ☐ Undecided ☐ Cow ☐ Liquid cow ☐ Poultry (fresh) ☐ Poultry (moist–crumbly)

☐ Poultry (dry) ☐ Liquid poultry ☐ Mycellium ☐ Other_____

Month(s) of application_____

Rate (fill in one): _____tons/acre _____slurry gallons/acre _____bu/A _____cu ft/A

5. Manure/Organic Waste Previously applied to This Field:

☐ None ☐ Cow ☐ Poultry ☐ Other (specify) _____ Number of years applied ___

Rate (tons/acre): ☐ 0-15 ☐ 16-25 ☐ 26-35 ☐ 35+

(gallons/acre): ☐ 0-5,000 ☐ 5,001-8,000 ☐ 8,000-11,000 ☐ 11,000+

SOIL TEST RESULTS

pH_____ Texture_____ Color_____ Laboratory No._____

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