



## Why Test Your Soil?

1. Optimize your garden productivity
2. Improve the soils nutritional balance
3. Save money (by applying only those nutrients necessary).
4. Aid in the diagnosis of plant culture problems.
5. Prevent over application of fertilizers (which could lead to runoff and leaching to surface and groundwater supplies).

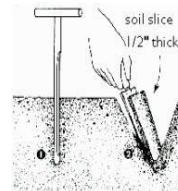


## Sampling Instructions

- 1). Clean all tools before you begin the soil sampling process, never use tools or containers that have been used for fertilizer application. Any remaining fertilizer residue could skew test results.
- 2). Dig 5 random holes 6 - 8 inches deep with garden trowel or shovel in the area you want tested. Spread out the sample holes to get an even representation of the area you want tested. For lawns dig 10 random holes at a depth of 4 inches.
- 3). Cut a thin slice of soil from the holes in your planting area. Cut from the top of the ground to the bottom of the hole and place this thin slice of soil into a clean bucket. Try to eliminate surface soil (about the top 1 inch) and any plant residue since this could skew the test results.
- 4). Thoroughly mix the collected soil in a bucket. Mixing the soil will provide more accurate and representative results.
- 5). Place the mixed soil into a clean plastic Ziploc<sup>®</sup> sandwich bag (about 2 cups of soil per bag).
- 6). Fill out the soil test application and label your soil sample bag with your name and sample number on the bag(s). Drop your soil sample off at the SWCD office during normal work hours, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm)

Office location:

McHenry - Lake County SWCD  
1648 South Eastwood Dr.  
Woodstock, IL 60098  
815-338-0099 ext. 3



## Soil Fertility Testing

for  
**Gardens**  
**Lawns**

## Landscaping



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# Soil Fertility Testing Program Application

## \$20.00 per sample



### McHenry - Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District

1648 S. Eastwood Drive Woodstock, IL. 60098

Voice: 815-338-0099 Fax: 815-338-7731 [www.mchenryswcd.org](http://www.mchenryswcd.org)

For office use only: Lab number: _____	Payment: \$ _____
County - McHenry _____ Lake _____	

### Applicant contact information

### Location of Soil Sample

Check each box that applies

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Flower Bed	
Vegetable Garden	
Lawn	

All soil tests will include pH, Potassium (K), Phosphorus (P), soil texture, soil structure, and soil color. General recommendations for remediation will be included in the results. These recommendations are based on University of Illinois Agronomy handbook.

Sample #	Date	Fertilizer Application	Predominant Vegetation	Special Situations	Reason for test

**Sample #** - If submitting multiple samples please assign a number to each sample to ensure they do not get contaminated or mixed with other samples as it will affect the results.

**Fertilizer application** - List any applications of fertilizer used in the past year, additionally any remediation made to the soil such as topsoil, compost, mulch, lime, sulfur etc.

**Predominant vegetation** - Primary vegetation planted (garden, turf grass, flowers) this will assist in the interpretation of pH results.

**Special situations** - If the area has abundant shade, poor or excessive drainage, moss or algae, etc.

**Reason for test** - Is there a specific reason you wish to be addressed or simply want to know the condition of your soil?

*The Soil Fertility Testing Program not intended for use in large scale operations such a agricultural fields and golf courses or to settle landowner disputes.*