

SOIL TESTING

TESTING FOR NUTRIENTS

Your local Virginia Cooperative Extension office can provide soil testing kits that will help you determine your current soil fertility, and steps you must take to make the soil suitable for healthy plant growth. Using these kits, you will take samples of your soil and send them to Virginia Tech for analysis.

REQUEST YOUR OWN SOIL NUTRIENT TEST:

Contact your local extension agent to request a soil test kit (on this [page](#)). The testing kit includes instructions on how to take your samples, but further sampling guidance is available here:

<https://www.soiltest.vt.edu/sampling-instructions.html>

Kit Cost: (In-State) \$10 - \$16

SOIL SAMPLE FORM EXAMPLE:

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University
Soil Testing Laboratory
Publication 452-129
Revised 2018

Soil Sample Information Sheet for Home Lawns, Gardens, Fruits, and Ornamentals

Please Type or Print Legibly (Name appears January 2018)

Use another form for commercial crop production. Not for growth media containing greater than 5% organic matter. See other side for sampling instructions. Processing will be delayed if soil is not received in the lab's sample container. For recommendations, be sure to fill in plant code number. Soil sample must have the same form. For more information, go to www.vce.vt.edu or contact your local Virginia Cooperative Extension office.

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____
E-mail To Send Report To: _____
Mailing Address: _____

Date sampled: _____
Submitted: _____

Poor Drainage?

If water is not draining in your yard, you may need to assess your soil's structure. Poor drainage is usually the result of poor structural qualities that are quite common in urban soils, such as severe compaction or high levels of clay or silt. While soil testing kits can't diagnose these issues, your local Extension Agent can assess the site in person for this and other problems.

REVIEW THE RESULTS:

Soil sample testing is usually completed within **10-14** days. When testing is complete you will receive an electronic copy of the results and recommendations. Your local Extension Agent is available to walk you through how to interpret the results if you need assistance.

SOIL TEST REPORT EXAMPLE:

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Soil Test Report

Questions? Contact: Danville City Office, 128 Third Avenue, Danville, VA 24540-2710, 434-799-6358
Virginia Tech Soil Testing Laboratory, 145 South Hall (0405), 185 Ag Quad Ln, Blacksburg, VA 24061, www.soiltest.vt.edu

Client: GREENGRASS JANE, 100 DECENT DR, MYTOWN, VA 24540
Crop: MY LAWN CARE COMPANY

SAMPLE HISTORY

Sample ID	Field ID	LAST CROP		LAST TIME APPLIED		SOIL INFORMATION					
		Name	Yield	Month	Year	SMI-1 %	SMI-2 %	SMI-3 %	Yield Estimate	Productivity Group	
BPCL4				18*		12-30	12/1000				

LAB TEST RESULTS (mg/100g)

Analysis	P (lb/A)	K (lb/A)	Ca (lb/A)	Mg (lb/A)	Zn (ppm)	Mn (ppm)	Cu (ppm)	B (ppm)	Status (ppm)
Result	3.0	12.9	1152	12.9	5.3	11.6	0.3	18.7	0.1
Rating	M	M	M	M	VH	SUFF	SUFF	SUFF	SUFF

Analysis

Soil pH	Buffer Index	Est. CEC (meq/100g)	Acidity (%)	Base Sat. (%)	Cu Sat. (%)	Mg Sat. (%)	K Sat. (%)	Organic Matter (%)
Result	5.4	6.10	6.2	28.8	73.2	46.6	21.9	2.7

FERTILIZER AND LIMESTONE RECOMMENDATIONS

Crop: LAWN MAINTENANCE - BLUEGRASS, FESCUE (202)

612. LIME RECOMMENDATIONS: Apply 100 pounds of agricultural limestone (ground, pulverized or pelleted) per 1000 square feet in several small applications of up to 50 lbs each, at intervals of 1 to 4 months, until the full amount is applied.

990. We are trying to improve our service. PLEASE take a moment to complete our brief, anonymous customer survey at tinyurl.com/sailestsurvey.

991. *Explanation of Soil Tests, Note 1* and other referenced notes are viewable at www.soiltest.vt.edu under Report Notes.

208. FERTILIZER RECOMMENDATIONS: Use any complete "nutrient" fertilizer according to the instructions in the note on lawn fertilization. (A "nutrient" fertilizer is typically high in nitrogen, and has little or no phosphorus and potassium, e.g., 25-6-7.)



Office Location
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The Norfolk Office of Virginia Cooperative Extension is located on the second floor of the Norfolk Public Health Building.

Office Hours
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.,
Monday through Friday

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Norfolk, VA 23510

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(757) 683-2816
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For more information on soil sampling see VCE Publications - Soil Sampling for the Home Gardener at:

<https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/452/452-129/452-129.html>