

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

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:

Davieville City Office

125 Main Street

Davieville, VA 24460-2710

434-799-6558

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GREENGROVE JANE

100 DECENT DR

MYTOWN, VA 24540

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Virginia Tech Soil Testing Laboratory

145 Smyth Hall (4645)

18 Ag Quad Bldg

Blacksburg, VA 24061-0465

www.soiltest.vt.edu

SEE NOTES:

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at www.soiltest.vt.edu under Report Notes

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MY LAWN CARE COMPANY

SAMPLE HISTORY

Sample ID	Field ID	LAST CROP		LAST TIME FERTILIZER APPLIED		SOIL INFORMATION				Productivity Group
		Name	Yield	Month	Year	SMU-1 %	SMU-2 %	SMU-3 %	Yield Estimate	
DPFC14				18+	10-50 12/10/2000					
LABORATORY RESULTS (ppm)										
Analysis	P (lb/ln)	K (lb/ln)	Ca (lb/ln)	Mg (lb/ln)	Na (ppm)	Ca (ppm)	Mg (ppm)	Na (ppm)	P (ppm)	SSalts (ppm)
Result	3.0	129	1152	329	5.3	11.6	0.3	15.7	0.1	
Rating	H	H	H	VB	STUFF	STUFF	STUFF	STUFF	STUFF	STUFF
Analysis	Soil pH	EC-CEC Index	Acidity (meq/100g)	Bare Soil %	C Sat. (%)	Mg Sat. (%)	K Sat. (%)	Organic Matter (%)		
Result	5.4	6.10	6.2	28	8	71.2	46.6	21.9		2.7

FERTILIZER AND LIMESTONE RECOMMENDATIONS

Ccsp: LAWN MAINTENANCE - BLUEGRASS, FESCUE (202)

612. LIME RECOMMENDATIONS: Apply 100 pounds of agricultural limestone (ground, pelleted or pelleted) per 1000 square feet in several small applications of up to 50 lbs each, at intervals of 1 to 6 months, until the full amount is applied.

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

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

888. FERTILIZER RECOMMENDATIONS: Use any complete "lawn-type" fertilizer according to the instructions on the note on lawn fertilization. A "turbo-type" fertilizer is typically high in nitrogen, and has little or no phosphorus and potassium, e.g., 25-0-7.

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.



Office Location
830 Southampton Avenue
Suite 2069
Norfolk, VA 23510-1045

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

Mailing Address
830 Southampton Avenue
Suite 2069
Norfolk, VA 23510

Phone Numbers
(757) 683-2816
(757) 683-2300 (Fax)

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>