



Sample Submission and Information Sheet for: Lawn, Garden, and Landscape Soil Analysis

(Submit one information sheet per sample.)

CUSTOMER INFORMATION

Customer Name
Address
City State Zipcode
FAX/Email results to:
Phone number

For prompt processing, enclose check payable to Serv-Tech Laboratories, credit card information, or valid Serv-Tech account number. Price may change without notice.

Payment by check: Direct bill to: _____

Amt \$ _____ Serv-Tech acct. no. _____

Check no. _____

Payment by credit card

Card type: VISA MasterCard

Card number: _____

Signature: _____

Expiration date: ____/____/____

SAMPLE INFORMATION

Sample identification: _____

(Sample ID must match the ID on the sample container. Maximum of ten characters.)

Sample depth: _____ inches

Check appropriate box:

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New lawn, before seeding (134) | Existing lawn: | <input type="checkbox"/> Fescue (136) | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoysia (140) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cool season grass (71) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Repairing bare spots (134) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bluegrass (135) | <input type="checkbox"/> Buffalograss (139) | <input type="checkbox"/> St. Augustine grass (158) | <input type="checkbox"/> Warm season grass (133) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Bermuda grass (138) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ryegrass (135) | <input type="checkbox"/> Centipedegrass (214) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable garden (72) | <input type="checkbox"/> Flowers, annual (148) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shade trees, deciduous/broadleaf (100) | <input type="checkbox"/> Acid-loving species (334) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit trees (231) | <input type="checkbox"/> Flowers, perennial (149) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shade trees, conifer/evergreen (230) | <input type="checkbox"/> Container-grown plants (see below) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vines & Brambles (209) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shrubs (235) | | | |

Other information (check appropriate boxes):

- Soil texture: Sandy Loamy Clayey Potting mix
- Soil drainage: Excellent Good Fair Poor

Comments:

Acid loving species: includes azaleas, blueberries, rhododendron, others

Vines & Brambles: include woody fruits, grapes, blackberries, raspberries, etc.

Container grown plants: If using a potting soil or peat-based mix, request the "Saturated Media Extract" or "SME" test. Requires at least one quart of sample in a plastic bag.

Soil drainage: How fast water percolates through the soil.

Lawn & Garden Soil Analysis includes: soil pH, soluble salts, nitrate-nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), sulfur (S), calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), sodium (Na), zinc (Zn), iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), copper (Cu), cation exchange capacity (CEC), base saturations, graphical report, fertilizer recommendations in "pounds per 1000 square feet"



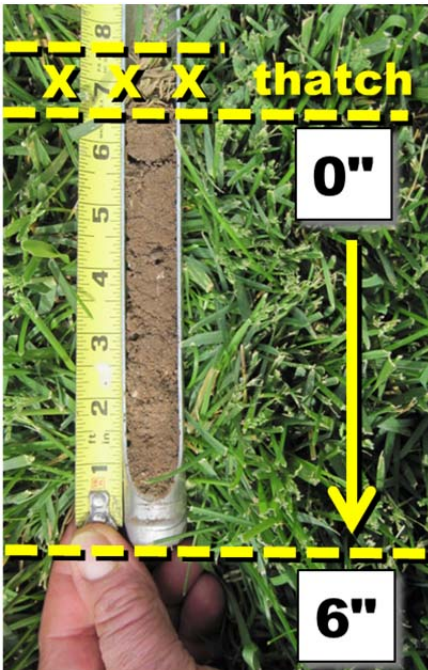
Collecting lawn and garden soil samples

The value of a soil test is only as good as the soil sample. The laboratory only analyzes a small amount of the sample, so the soil sample must represent a specific area or condition on the property.

Sampling tools

A soil "sample" consists of a composited group of individual "subsamples". Subsamples should be placed in a clean plastic pail or bucket. Do not use galvanized or rubber containers.

Wash hands before sampling, especially if having handled fertilizer or wood ashes. Clean the sampling equipment before taking each sample. Recommended sampling depth is 6 inches from the soil surface (as shown below). Discard thatch from the sample



Recommended sampling depth is from soil surface to 6 inches. Discard thatch layer from established turf.

Probe or auger: A soil probe (coring tube) or an auger is the best tool for sampling. An auger is useful if the soil is gravelly or very dry and hard. A cordless drill with an auger bit (boring bit) and a collection tray with a hole in the bottom can be used to collect soil samples.

Push the probe or turn the auger into the soil to the proper depth. Extract the probe from the soil to remove the soil core or to remove the loose soil from the auger threads. Place the soil into a clean plastic bucket or pail.



A soil probe or auger is the best tool for taking soil samples to the proper depth.

Trowel or shovel: If a soil probe or auger is not available, collect subsamples with the blade of a garden trowel, shovel, or spade. Use the tool to make a hole to a 6-inch depth. If this is established turf, cut out a triangular wedge of soil and set it aside to be replaced after sampling.

Use the trowel or shovel to take a thin (half-inch) slice from one side of the 6-inch hole. With a knife, trim the slice from top to bottom, leaving about a 1-inch strip of soil down the center of the blade. Place this strip of soil (sub-sample) into a clean plastic bucket or pail as part of the composite soil sample.



Dig small hole, then use shovel or trowel to collect 6-inch long slices of soil for analysis.

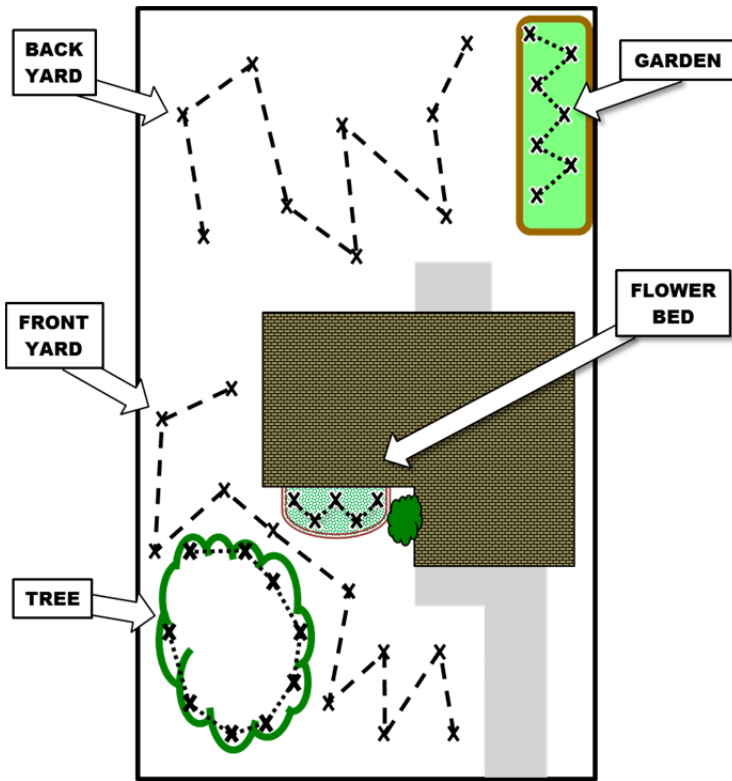
Where to sample

Sampling areas should be as uniform as possible. Consider things like soil type, fertilizing history, or type of plants.

For practical purposes the sampling area should be an area you expect to fertilize as an individual unit. This means separate samples for lawn areas, flower beds, gardens, trees, shrubs rows, etc.

Avoid unusual areas, like those where fertilizer or lime has spilled. If part of a lawn or garden has a growth problem, taking one sample from the "good" area and a separate sample from the "bad" area is a useful way to identify the potential source of the problem. If the soil test results show that soil fertility is adequate, more fertilizer is not the solution. One must investigate to identify other causes that may be responsible for the problem.

Collect samples for large trees or shrubs from the "drip-line", the perimeter where water hits the soil surface during a gentle rain. It is the edge of the shadow that the tree or shrub would cast at high noon.



Collect soil subsamples from designated areas on the property using a zig-zag pattern. Avoid unusual areas unless samples are to be used for identifying problems. Take subsamples for trees and shrubs under the drip-line.

How to sample

The final soil sample consists of the composited cores or subsamples from the designated sampling area. Collect subsamples using a random, zig-zag pattern over the sampling area.

The greater the number of subsamples, the better the sample will represent the average condition of the sampled area. Consider 10 cores as a minimum for home gardens and for lawns up to 10,000 square feet in size. Larger areas should be represented by at least 15 to 20 samples.

Preparing the sample

Make sure that all the subsamples (cores or slices) are thoroughly mixed in the clean plastic pail. Break up and crumble the subsamples into pieces no larger than pea-sized or marble-sized.

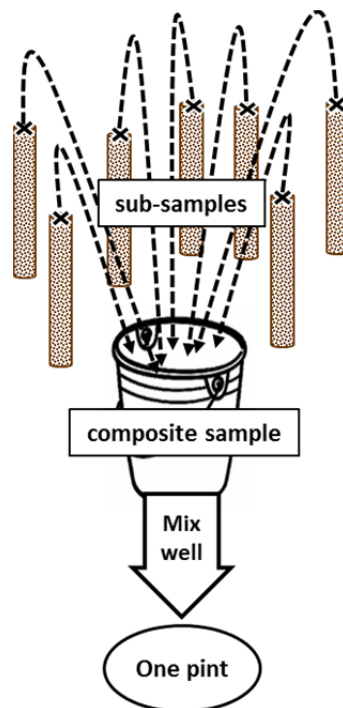
Label the sample bag with the proper information. Use a waterproof marker, like a "Sharpie".

Remove enough of the mixed soil to fill the sample bag supplied by the laboratory. If using a one-quart zipper-lock bag, fill about half-full (one pint). Discard the extra soil.

Fill out the information sheet for each sample as completely as feasible. Make sure the identification on the sample bag and the information on the information sheet are matched up.

Place the information sheets and payment into a zipper lock bag to protect from moisture and enclose them with the samples.

Transport the samples to the laboratory within a day or two of collection. If shipping samples, make sure they are packed properly to prevent spillage during shipment.



Collect at least 10 soil sub-samples from a single area in a clean plastic bucket. Crumble the sub-samples and mix well. Remove about one pint of the composited sample for final analysis. Submit samples in bags supplied by laboratory or in a plastic bag. Ship samples as soon as possible with the appropriate information enclosed

