

Soil Sampling Instructions

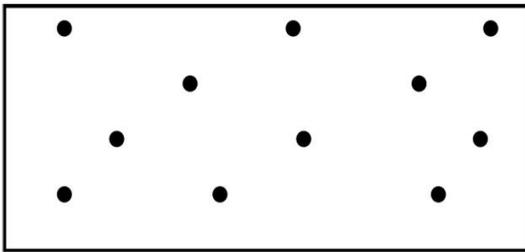
With the Covid-19 situation we are all working from home and our offices are closed. However, if you go to the office building at 214 Donohoe Road in Greensburg, there are free test kit mailing bags and instructions in the small lobby area inside the front door that you could pick up. The test kits provide you the Ziploc bag and mailing bag and instruction sheet. You would still have to mail in the check for \$9.00 and the soil test paperwork for each sample you send in. The directions say that one kit can cover about 10 acres.

Step 1

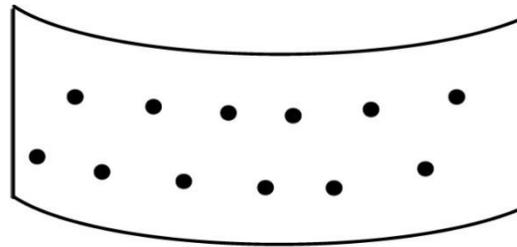
A soil test is no better than the soil sample submitted for analysis. Take samples as follows:

Agronomic, Vegetables, Small Fruit, and Home Garden Crops

Using a trowel, shovel, or auger, and a clean pail, obtain thin slices or borings of soil from at least 13 places in a given area. Follow the diagram below to properly locate the samples. For contour strips, take 6 samples 20 feet in from the edge of the entire strip and 6 samples from the opposite side of the strip. Sample to plow depth in cultivated land or to a depth of 6 inches. Sample to a depth of 3 or 4 inches in permanent pastures. If the field varies in soil type, previous fertilizer or lime application, or cropping history, sample each area separately.



Square, Rectangular Field or Garden



Contour Strips

Turf Soils

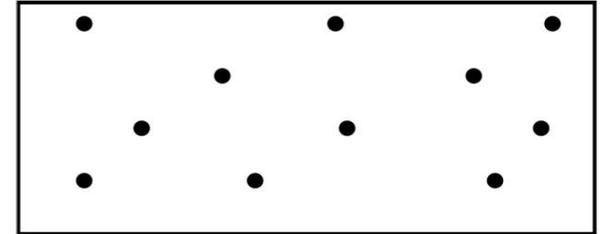
Using a soil sampling tube, auger or trowel, and a clean pail, obtain thin slices or borings of soil from 12 or more locations. Follow the diagram below to properly locate the samples. Sample to a depth of 2 to 3 inches.

If the area varies in kind of soil, previous fertilizer or lime treatments, use separate mailing kits for each different area. Discard all grass and accumulated thatch material. Do not contaminate soil with fertilizer or other materials.

If you have a situation where a maintenance recommendation for an existing turf area is desired and also a recommendation for establishing a new turf area is desired, you must use separate soil test kits for each area.

Tree Fruit

Collect soil cores to an 8-inch depth just inside the drip line of the canopy. Collect soil cores from at least 15 to 20 locations to form a representative composite sample. Avoid unusual areas that are not representative of the whole area.



Step 2

Mix the soil taken from one field into one composite sample. Spread soil on newspaper in a warm room to air dry overnight. Do not heat.

Step 3

Fill in the appropriate form above in the attachments. One is for agronomy crops and the other is for gardens, yards, landscape plants, flowers, woodlots, and Christmas trees.

Take 1 cup of representative sample and place in a plastic bag. Mail soil sample and submission form along with a \$9.00 check made payable to The Pennsylvania State University at:

The Pennsylvania State University, 111 Ag Analytical Services Lab, University Park, PA 16802-1114

If you write your email address on the form, you will receive results more quickly. Either way, you will receive a hard copy in the mail within several weeks.

If you have crop test result questions, contact Leanna Dupstadt at lms5900@psu.edu. For garden soil test result questions, contact Mandy Smith at mls302@psu.edu

Ag Analytical Services Lab

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

- EMAIL aaaslab@psu.edu
- OFFICE 814-863-0841
- FAX 814-863-4540

Their website for further information is <https://agsci.psu.edu/aaas/soil-testing/fertility>