



Thank you for your interest in the VCE Soil Testing Program!

To take & submit a soil sample:

1. Use a spade, shovel trowel or soil probe you can check out from the Extension office and a clean, plastic pail.
2. Sample at least five (5) spots in your yard or field. Remove sod cover from the soil and take sample below the sod.
 - a. If there are visible differences in the soils at the different locations, you can submit different/separate samples.
3. Crumble up soil, removing debris, and lay out on a sheet to dry if wet to touch. This can take 1-2 days.
4. Fill each soil sample box to fill line with dry soil.
5. Send payment if:
 - a. Sample is for a home garden OR
 - b. You wish to test for organic matter or soluble salts.
6. **NEW!** The VCE Highland or Bath office will ship samples in a group the 10th of each month. Bring your sample with forms and applicable fees by the 10th to be included in the shipment.
7. Results are emailed to the client from the VT Soil Testing Lab.
8. The VCE office can print off your sample or offer interpretation if needed. Please call 540 468 2225 or 540 839 7261 with help to interpret your results.

FYI: The VT Soil Testing Lab is busiest from October to April when submissions from commercial growers is at its peak. Sending samples in the "off season" is helpful to the lab.

Soil Testing Process

Soil samples are analyzed for plant-available levels of specific soil nutrients to determine proper application rates of fertilizer and lime for optimum plant growth. Routine analysis includes soil pH, P, K, Ca, Mg, Zn, Mn, Cu, Fe and B. Soluble salts and Organic Matter (OM) results are available for an additional fee. Completed soil test results, along with recommendations on fertilization and liming, are emailed to the client. Sampling, mailing instructions and payment information are found on associated forms as well as on the VT Soils Testing Lab site at <https://www.soiltest.vt.edu/>. Soil sample boxes and forms are available for free at your local VCE Office.

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