

Soil Analysis

for Lawns and Gardens

Free to Cedar Creek Residents

(The first sample is free. Each additional sample is \$10)



Soil sample kits are available through April 5 at the following locations:

- Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Allen (Fort Wayne), Noble (Albion) and DeKalb (Auburn) counties
- DeKalb County Cooperative Extension Service office (Court House)
- Hoham, Smith & Company (Auburn)

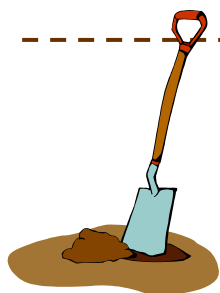
Sampling Techniques

1. Different areas of your property should be analyzed separately. Therefore, separate soil sample bags should be prepared for analysis of each area. For example, you may need one soil sample for your lawn, another for your vegetable garden, and perhaps another for your flower or shrub garden.
2. Draw a diagram of your property where soil analysis is needed. Plot the soil areas that you are going to sample and keep your diagram for future reference.
3. Divide each soil analysis area into several smaller sections and take one or more samples from each area. Since only a small portion of the soil is used for testing, it is very important that the total soil sample is representative of that area.

Soil Sampling Procedures

1. Write your name and address on the outside of the bag before filling with soil.
2. Remove surface debris, such as plant residues, mulch or turf thatch, from the soil before inserting the soil probe, spade or trowel. If using a spade or trowel, dig a V-shaped hole to sample depth; then cut a thin slice of soil from one side of the hole.
3. Sample gardens and shrub and flower beds to a depth of 6-8 inches; sample turf areas to a 3-inch depth; sample tree root zones to 8-12 inches or deeper, sample row crops (in gardens) between the rows to avoid fertilizer bands. Large areas take 10-15 slices; Narrow shrub or flower borders take 4-6 slices.
4. Sample light, dark-colored, limed and unlimed areas separately.
5. Sample front & back yard separately if they have been managed differently or contain different types of fill soil.
6. Total soil samples should yield approximately 1 to 1 1/2 cups of soil.
7. Take all samples from each separate area and place together in a clean plastic pail or box and mix together to get a representative sample or "average" for each area.
8. Return your soil sample bag to one of the above offices by April 5.

Sample analysis results will be available at the April 14 workshop held from 9:00-noon at Hoham, Smith & Co. at 104 Walnut Street in Auburn. Experts will be on hand to help explain your soil analysis result. The workshop is designed to help urban and suburban homeowners to learn how to properly apply the correct fertilizers and pesticides while protecting their water resources.



Please attach to your soil bag.

- I live in the Cedar Creek watershed and can receive one soil sample analysis for FREE.
- I live outside the Cedar Creek watershed and can receive each soil sample analysis for \$10.

Print Name _____ Signature _____