

Soil pH Testing at Cornell Cooperative Extension

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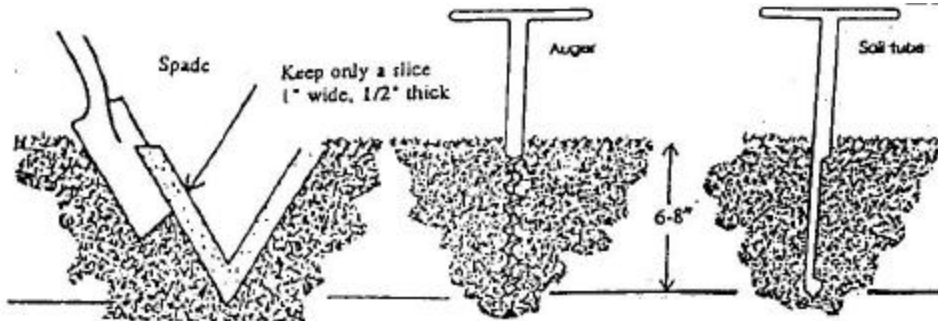
Soil pH Test Fee: \$5.00 (for up to 5 samples)

Soil pH testing by Erie County Master Gardeners at area soil clinics. For soil clinic dates/times, call (716) 652-5400, ext. 137. or visit <http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/erie/>

Fees apply.

How to Obtain a Soil Sample

The results of soil tests for nutrients and pH are valuable only if the soil sample is REPRESENTATIVE of the soil layers from which the plants draw their nutrients. It is essential to obtain uniform slices or cores of soil from the top to the proper depth. A spade, an auger or a special soil sampling tube can be used. (see figure)



To properly obtain a soil sample for testing, select 8 to 10 spots in the garden or the lawn (sub samples) and follow these steps:

- Scrape away any debris, mulch and ½ to 1” of the surface layer
- Take a slice (core) of soil all the way down to 8” – 10” from each of these spots.
- Mix these soil sub samples together and spread the mixed soil evenly on a clean surface to AIR DRY. (It takes 2-4 days for a 1” thick layer of non-muddy soil to dry out depending on air humidity and circulation.)
- Mix the dried soil again and remove any remaining debris or stones. (If possible grind it to pass a 2mm sieve. Try not to handle the sample with your hands.)
- Save only about ONE CUP of the dried soil in a clean, not metal or galvanized, container like a plastic bag or jar and label the container (not the lid) with your name and the area you took the sample.
- Bring soil sample to: Cornell Cooperative Extension
21 South Grove Street
East Aurora, New York – (716) 652-5400, ext. 131
- Results will be mailed to you within ten (10) business days

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