



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Otsego County

NEWS RELEASE

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When You Need a Soil Test

When growing a lawn, flower or vegetable garden, or trees and shrubs, it is important to make sure that the soil is compatible with the plant being grown. There are some plants that like the soil to be acidic, some like it alkaline and some like a more neutral soil. A soil pH test can help determine this. Sometimes, if the gardener is having a problem getting plants to grow, a nutrient analysis of the soil is needed.

If you would like a test done on your garden soil, please go to the Otsego County Cornell Cooperative Extension website <http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/otsego> and click on Consumer Horticulture, then click on "Directions for Taking Soil Samples".

Soil pH testing is done at Cornell Cooperative Extension in Cooperstown for a fee of \$3.00 for the first sample and \$1.00 for each additional sample that is brought in at the same time. Bring samples to Cornell Cooperative Extension, 123 Lake Street, Cooperstown (Monday thru Friday) or 31 Maple Street (Francis Rowe House), Oneonta (Tuesday thru Thursday).

Soil brought in for a full nutrient analysis is sent to Cornell and must be mailed in Pre-Paid Soil Nutrient Test Bags that are obtainable from Cornell Cooperative Extension. The cost is \$15.00 if you mail the sample; \$20.00 if CCE mails it for you.

For more information on the Master Gardener Program or to ask a gardening question, please call the Master Gardener Helpline at 607-547-2536 Ext. 228 (Monday thru Friday).

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