

NDSU Soil Testing Lab

Lawn and Garden Package: \$19.50

How do I Take a Soil Sample?

Nitrogen (NO₃-N), Phosphorus (P)
Potassium (K), pH, EC (soluble salts),
OM (Organic Matter), Recommendation

Tools needed:

- *pail or other open container at least 1 gallon in size
- *shovel or other soil extraction device
- *bag(s) for samples (NDSU Soil sample bags or quart size zip lock bag)

1. Locate several (2-6) spots in site to be sampled. Spots should represent size of site to be sampled. (the larger the area you are testing, the more samples should be taken.)
2. Remove non-soil (grass, thatch, leaves, plastic, etc.) layer from surface of sampling location.
3. Use shovel or soil extraction device to remove sample to approximately 6 inches deep.
4. Place sample in pail or container.
5. Repeat steps 2-4 for remaining sampling spots.
6. Stir soil in pail so thoroughly mixed.
7. Place **at least 1 pint (or fill to the line on the soil bag)** of the mixed soil from the collection pail.
8. Label paper bag with name, address, sample depth increment, and some sort of sample identifier (GARDEN1, LAWN, etc.)
9. Complete the Lawn and Garden Solutions form for each sample submitting for testing.
10. You do not need to include the payment for the testing, as we will send an invoice after tests are completed.

How Do I Send Soil Samples?

1. Close bag(s) containing soil samples securely.
2. Ensure sample bag(s) contain name, address, sample depth increment, and sample identifier.
3. Place sample bag(s) in a sturdy box, preferably surrounded by some sort of packing material, and seal up box.
4. Include the completed soil information sheet with the sample, and no payment is needed, as you will be sent an invoice when the testing is completed
5. Ship via mail or a parcel service to the following address:

NDSU Soil Testing Lab
Dept. 7680
P.O. Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108-6050 (Postal Address)

NDSU Soil Testing Lab
1360 Bolley Drive
103 Waldron Hall
Fargo, ND 58102 (Physical address, for UPS/FedEx)