

STEP BY STEP

# SOIL TESTING

DR. JOE MASABNI



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1

For a small garden with raised beds, one sample is enough. Take subsamples from each bed and combine for analysis.

2

If raised beds have soils of different textures, then send separate samples.

3

About 1 pint of soil is sufficient for analysis, or the amount to fill the soil sampling bag.

4

Make sure the soil is dry before shipping.

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For an inground garden under 1 acre, one sample is also enough.

6

Avoid sampling areas from small gullies, depressions where water stands, waterways, or walkways.

7

Collect soil sample before fertilizing.

8

For sampling, use a spade, or soil auger, or a small hoe.

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Clear litter from surface, dig a V-shaped hole 6 inches deep, discard the top 1 inch, and take the center 1 inch slice to place in the bag.

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For a new garden, take a soil sample every year for the first 3 years to track soil health. Afterwards, take a sample every 3rd year or after making a major change to the soil such as adding a new topsoil or moving to a new area of the garden.

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For an urban garden, use the following submission form:

<http://soiltesting.tamu.edu/files/urbansoil.pdf>

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Send samples to Soil, Water and Forage Testing Laboratory, 2478 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-2478. Additional information and description of analysis results are found at <https://soiltesting.tamu.edu>