**STEP BY STEP**

**SOIL TESTING**  
DR. JOE MASABNI

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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5. 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.
STEP BY STEP

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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 slide to place in the bag.

10
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