

SUGGESTED INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING SOIL SAMPLES

Use the following steps to submit soil samples:

1. Obtain a spade, trowel, soil tube, or soil auger free of rust and soil.
2. Dig 5-10 samples (depending on the size of the area) from the soil depth where your plants will be rooting. The samples should represent a uniform area consisting of land that is similar in slope, texture, drainage, or other characteristics that make the soil the same. A front and back yard would most likely be very similar to each other, however a garden area may be different from a turf grass area
3. Place all of the samples into a plastic container and mix well to get your final sample for submittal to the lab. If possible, air dry the sample by spreading it out on paper towels.
4. Remove about 1 ½ - 2 cups of soil from the container and place it in a plastic bag or soil sample bag
If more than one bag is submitted to the lab, the samples will be analyzed and invoiced as separate samples
5. Seal the bag and label the sample with name, address and location of the sample
6. Complete this soil sample information form as much as possible and include it with the soil sample.
7. Mail the sample to the lab using the following address:

Soil, Water and Plant Testing Laboratory Colorado State University Room A 319 NESB Fort Collins, CO 80523-1120	For submittal using UPS/Fed Ex please use: Soil, Water and Plant Testing Laboratory Colorado State University 200 West Lake Street Fort Collins CO 80523-1120
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8. Be sure to keep samples cool before mailing. If samples heat up; the nitrogen readings can change dramatically
Keeping the samples in the shade will prevent excessive heating.
9. Please pay when you submit your samples, either by check or by providing complete credit card information. If an invoice is required for an individual (rather than business) you will need to provide all the information requested or the front side of the form.
10. The lab DOES NOT do herbicide or pesticide analysis.
11. If you have additional questions please contact the lab at: (970) 491-5061 or your local county Cooperative Extension agent.

SOIL TESTS AVAILABLE

Test	COMMENTS
Routine - pH, soluble salts, organic matter, nitrate-nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, zinc, iron, lime (estimate), texture, copper and manganese.	Basic evaluation for characterizing the soil fertility status for growing crops. A fertilizer recommendation is given. Normally this test is sufficient unless a special problem is suspected.
Subsoil Nitrate	Evaluation of nitrate supply below soil surface. Fertilizer nitrogen recommendation based on routine soil test of surface soil is adjusted if subsoil nitrate is unusually high.
Subsoil Salinity	It is important to determine the salt content of subsoil for crop management.
Sodium Evaluation - sodium adsorption ratio (ratio of sodium to calcium and magnesium), gypsum, and % lime.	Some Colorado soils contain excess sodium. This test determines whether or not chemical amendments such as gypsum or sulfur will be effective and the amounts of these materials needed.
Sulfate	Colorado soils usually have sufficient quantities of this nutrient.
Boron, Molybdenum, Cadmium and Lead	In some situations, such as near mining sites, these metals may be found at toxic levels.