

Steps to Take a Soil Sample

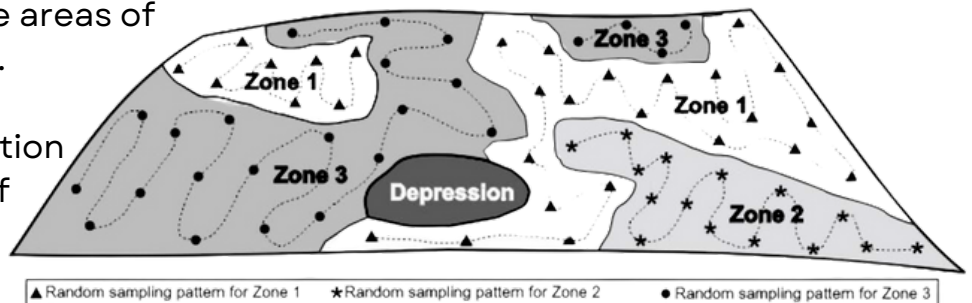
Soil testing provides essential information for evaluating the specific needs of your soil. To maximize yield and quality, soil should be tested at least once a year.

Follow the instruction below when taking a soil sample.

Gather a bucket and an arrow-head shovel or soil probe. Roughly divide your property into sample areas of uniform topography.

1

Any areas with elevation changes or bodies of water should be sampled separately.



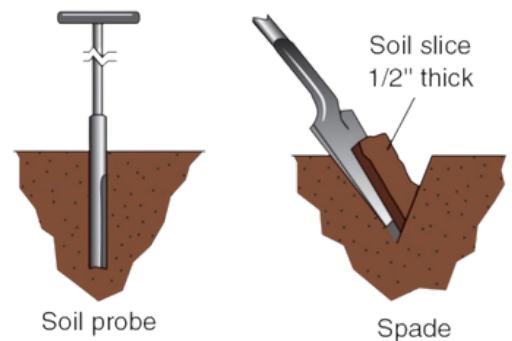
▲ Random sampling pattern for Zone 1 ★ Random sampling pattern for Zone 2 ● Random sampling pattern for Zone 3

Source: Greg Means, UF/IFAS

2

Within the sample area, collect 15-20 “cores” of soil by digging the shovel or probe 4-6 inches into the ground and pulling out a handful of the soil profile.

Place these cores in the bucket.

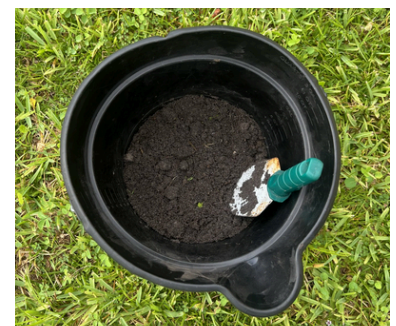


Source: IL Agronomy Handbook, Chapter 8, Pg. 93

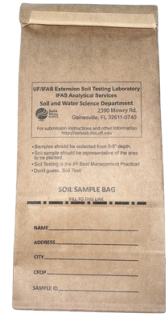
3

Mix the cores together in the bucket to get a rough estimate of all of the soil in your sample area.

Remove excess plant material.



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- 4 Using the soil from the bucket, fill the sample bag to the fill line. Label the bag with your name, date, type of crop, and the name of the area you sampled.



Repeat the process for each area you are testing.

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- 5 Fill out the necessary forms from the UF/IFAS Soils Lab website.
- Producer Soil Test: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/ss186>
 - Bahia Test: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/ss597>
 - Landscape & Vegetable Garden Test: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/SS187>

Bring your samples, completed forms, and a check made out to the University of Florida (\$10/sample) to the Bradford County Extension Office.

You should receive an email with your soil sample results from the UF Soils Lab within 7-14 business days. Once you receive your results, do not hesitate to contact us with any questions about your soil's fertilizer needs.

Have more questions?

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