

Indian River County Master Gardeners

Soil Testing is FREE for PH only

Fill out the FORM and leave with your soil sample.

How to Take a Soil Sample from Your Lawn or Garden

Obtain a small amount of soil from 6 to 10 different spots in the area you wish to test (a minimum of 1/2 pint). When you sample a lawn, take the soil from the upper 2–4 inches. When sampling a vegetable garden or landscape plants, take soil from the upper 6 inches. If soil is wet, spread soil on clean paper or other suitable material to air dry.

Figure 1. Use a soil probe for faster soil sampling. Figure 2. If you don't have a soil probe, use a hand trowel, shovel, or other garden tool. Remove soil from the recommended depth. Figure 3. Place 6–10 soil cores into a plastic bucket; mix, dry, and transfer to a bag. (zip lock)

If you need a more extensive test, you will have to send to UF Laboratories. Fill out the Form Extension Soil Testing Laboratory SL 136. There is a fee.

COMPLETED _____
(Please check off when complete)

FORM 4: Soil pH Test Request



Date: _____

MG taking info: _____

How contacted: phone call email walk-in site visit

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

1. Soil Location (Check or add appropriate information)

Barrier Island West of I-95 Coastal Ridge Flatwoods

2. What plants are currently being grown in this area (be specific).

General Landscape Turfgrass Trees/Shrubs Fruit/Citrus

3. Soil Sample pH Testing

MG testing: _____ Date of test: _____

pH reading: _____

4. Recommendations (please check)

No pH modification needed – soil suitable for intended use

Unsuitable for intended use:

____ Choose another plant for this location

____ Remove/replace soil

____ Decrease pH by treating with elemental sulfur

____ Decrease pH by adding organic matter

____ Increase pH by adding lime

Resubmit for more detailed testing to IFAS/UF Soil Testing Lab (form SL136)

5. Clientele Contact

MG contacting client: _____ Date of follow-up: _____

How contacted: phone call email walk-in site visit

6. Other Information

MGV's: Please follow the instructions below.

1. Fill out this form as completely as possible and staple to sample bag.
2. Place in soil sample basket on top of the credenza for MGV completing sampling.
3. If you do contact the customer, PLEASE note what you have said in the "Other information" section above.
 - a. If you leave a message, note that in the "Other Information" above and briefly state WHAT message was left (i.e., just call the office, gave a diagnosis, etc.)
 - b. Give as much info to the next MGV as possible. Do not just say "left message"!