

Helping Your Soil Sample Make the Grade

These tips were compiled from Texas Agricultural Extension Service publications. For a soil-testing form or for more information, contact your local Extension office, see <http://soiltesting.tamu.edu> or call TAMU's Soil, Water and Forage Testing Laboratory @ (979)845.4816.

1. Take one composite sample for every 10 to 40 acres.
2. Take separate samples for areas with different soil types, different land uses or fertilizer uses and different terrain.
3. Take samples from 10 to 15 different areas and thoroughly mix in a clean, plastic bucket or other non-metallic container.
4. Approximately one pint of the resulting soil mixture is needed for a routine soil test.
5. Use a spade, auger or soil sampling tube.
6. Clear litter from the surface.
7. Make core or bore 6 inches deep.
8. Samples may be air dried before sending but do not use heat to dry samples.
9. Be sure to include detailed information about previous lime or fertilizer applications, what you expect to grow and what your expected yield is/
10. Mail information form, soil sample and payment to:
Soil, Water, and Forage Testing Laboratory
Soil & Crop Sciences
Texas A&M University
2474 TAMU
College Station, Texas 77843-2474