

Will- South Cook Soil & Water Conservation District

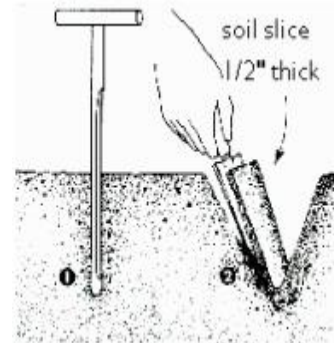
Soil Fertility Testing for Gardens, Lawns & Landscaping



Soil Sampling Instructions

- 1). Clean all tools before you begin the soil sampling process, never use tools or containers that have been used for fertilizer application. Any remaining fertilizer residue could skew test results.
- 2). Dig 5 random holes 6 – 8 inches deep with garden trowel or shovel in the area you want tested. Spread out the sample holes to get an even representation of the area you want tested. For lawns dig 10 random holes at a depth of 4 inches.

3). Cut a thin slice of soil from the holes in your planting area. Cut from the top of the ground to the bottom of the hole and place this thin slice of soil into a clean bucket. Try to eliminate surface soil (about the top 1 inch) and any plant residue since this could skew the test results.



- 4). Mix the collected soil thoroughly in a bucket. Mixing the soil will provide more accurate and representative results.
- 5). Place the mixed soil into a clean plastic Ziploc ® sandwich bag (about 2 cups of soil per bag).
- 6). Fill out the *soil test application* found on our website, www.will-scookswcd.org, and label your soil sample bag with your name and sample number on the bag(s). Drop your soil sample off at the SWCD office~ *1201 Gougar Rd, New Lenox, Monday – Friday 8:00am-4:30pm*

for a \$20 fee (per sample) you will receive results and recommendations for pH, Potassium (K), Phosphorous ((P), soil texture, structure and color

Questions? Call (815) 462-3106 ext. 3 or email: info@will-scookswcd.org