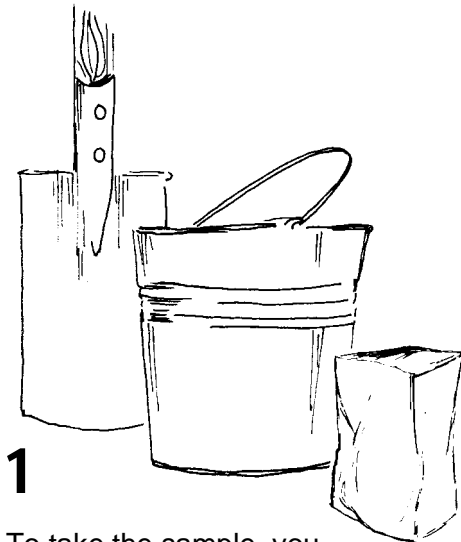


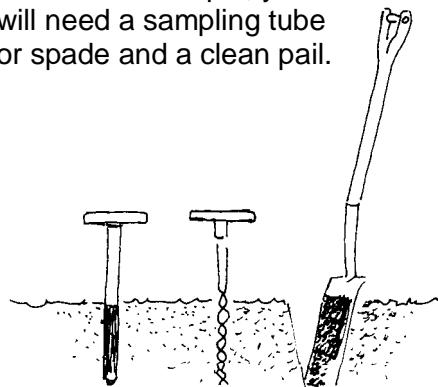
Jefferson County Extension Service, 810 Barret Avenue, Louisville, KY 40204-1782
Phone: (502) 569-2344 Fax: (502) 569-3958 <http://ces.ca.uky.edu/Jefferson>

How to take good soil test samples



1

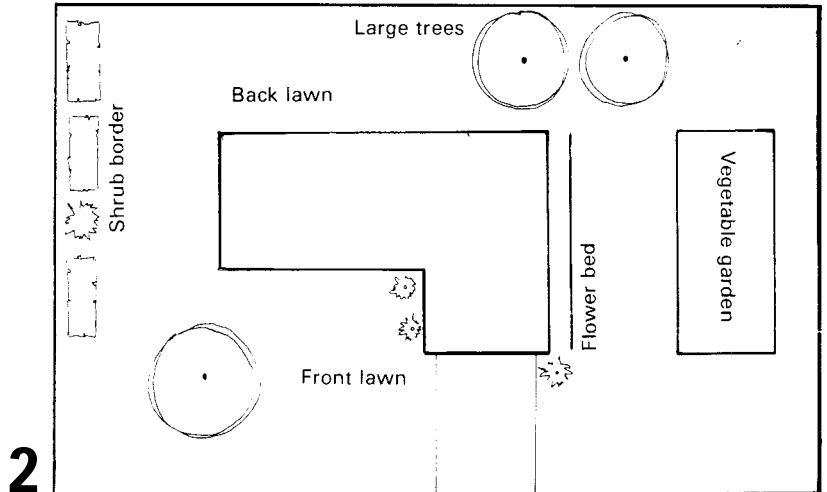
To take the sample, you will need a sampling tube or spade and a clean pail.



3 Sample to proper depth. If a spade is used, dig a V-shaped hole to the depth of sample. Obtain a slice or core of soil from the surface of the ground, downward to the appropriate depth as listed below. Use a spade to cut a thin slice of soil. First, push the spade into the soil and throw this soil aside. Take a one-inch thick slice of soil from the back of the hole at the proper depth.

DEPTH OF SAMPLE

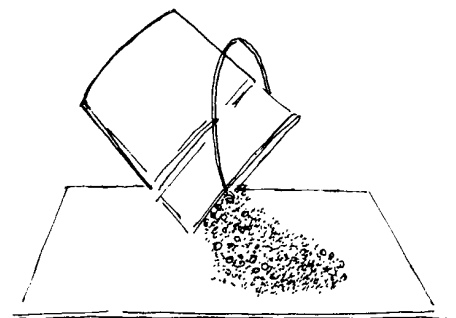
Lawn	3 inches
Flower garden	4-6 inches
Shrub beds	6-8 inches
Vegetable garden	4-6 inches
Trees	4-8 inches
Pasture	4-6 inches
Corn, soybeans	to plow depth



2

Sample the areas of the yard separately. So if you are doing the lawn, sample back and front separately. Obtain 10-15 samples from random locations for each sample test.

4 Mix all soil thoroughly, breaking up the cores or slices. If soil is muddy, dry it before mixing.



Spread mixture out on clean paper to air dry. **Do not heat.** (Do not place in oven or on stove.) Do not dry in places where fertilizer or manure may get in sample.

Take one pint (2 cups) of soil to your County Extension Office for testing. There is a nominal charge to cover the cost of testing.

You will be required to fill out a form for processing your soil sample. Be sure to put the type of plant you will be growing, so the Extension Agent can recommend the proper soil treatment (i.e., lawn, vegetable garden, roses, needed evergreen, etc.)