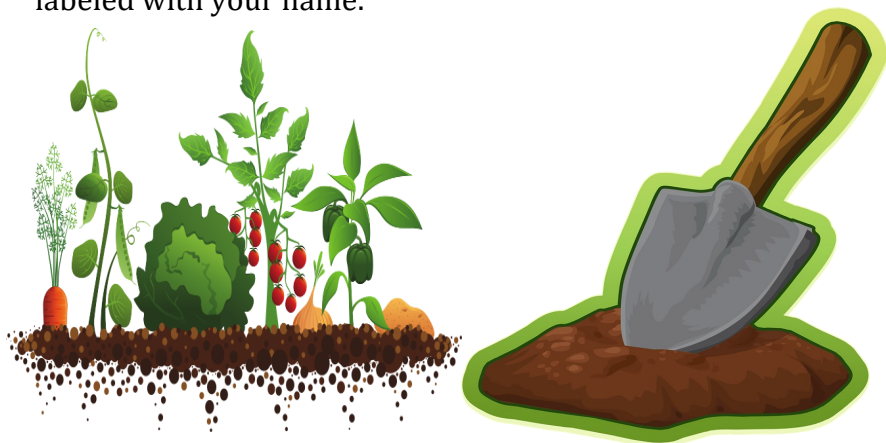


## How To Take A Soil Sample

- Remove surface debris, such as plant residues, mulch or turf thatch from the soil before inserting the soil probe, spade, or trowel.
- Sample gardens and shrub and flower beds to a depth of 6-8 inches.
- Sample turf areas to a 3-inch depth.
- Sample tree root zones to 8-12 inches or deeper.
- Sample row crops (in gardens) between the rows to avoid fertilizer bands.
- Sample light, dark-colored, limed and unlimed areas separately.
- Sample front and back yard separately if they have been managed differently or contain different types of fill soil.
- Dry samples at room temperature (do not use artificial heat).
- Break up any lumps and remove all stones, debris, etc.
- When dry, mix well and crush so all the soil is the size of wheat grains or smaller, but do not pulverize.
- Place one cup sample in a clean, clear plastic container or bag, labeled with your name.



**This material may be available in alternative formats.  
<http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-71.pdf>  
For more information on the subject discussed in this  
publication, consult your local office of the Purdue University  
Cooperative Extension Service:**

3000 Technology Ave., Suite L2110· New Albany, IN 47150-3570  
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## Soil Testing Available at Your Floyd County Purdue Extension Office

### Why do you test your soil?

- ♦ Nitrogen (N)
- ♦ Phosphorous (P)
- ♦ Potassium (K)
- ♦ Soil pH (a measure of acidity or alkalinity)

### When can you take a Soil Sample?

- ♦ Anytime
- ♦ Well before planting
- ♦ Once every three to five years

### When do I get my Soil Sample results back?

- ♦ It usually takes two to four weeks to receive your results via email.

### What is the cost of a Soil Sample Test?

- ♦ There is a \$20.00 fee for each Soil Sample Test (cash or check only—Ck to Purdue CES Ed Fund)

### What type of Soil Samples are tested in the office?

- ♦ Turf/Lawn (3 inches deep)
- ♦ Flower Garden (4-6 inches deep)
- ♦ Vegetable Garden (4-6 inches deep)
- ♦ Trees/Shrubs (4-8 inches deep)
  - ♦ Fruits (4-6 inches deep)
- ♦ We do not test Agricultural or Commercial Hort samples

### How do I take a Soil Sample?

- ♦ See Reverse

[www.extension.purdue.edu/floyd](http://www.extension.purdue.edu/floyd)