



IFAS Analytical Services Laboratories Extension Soil Testing Laboratory

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Nutrient Testing for Bahia Pastures

Note: The ESTL only tests samples from the State of Florida

Mailing Address (please print)

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____ FL Zip _____
 Date _____ E-Mail * _____

- This form can be downloaded from our website
- Detailed information on this test can be obtained from SL129 accessed at edis.ifas.ufl.edu
- For further information contact your local county Extension Agent

* In order to expedite reporting of results, please provide an e-mail address if possible.

Fill in all requested information, using one line per sample and additional sheets for more than 5 samples.

| Lab Use only | County | Test(s) Requested (see below) | Crop Codes * (see below) | N option ** (see below) | Acreage | Sample ID For Soil | Sample ID For Leaf Tissue | Cost |
|--------------|--------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------|--------------------|---------------------------|------|
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*** Crop Codes:**

- **35** – Bahiagrass establishment of new plantings; **Test 1** - standard soil test
- **36** – Bahiagrass, established with Low, Medium and High Nitrogen options – **Test B1** Standard Soil AND Tissue Test (pH, lime requirement, P, K, Ca, Mg) **OR Test 1**, Standard Soil test (pH, lime requirement, K, Ca, Mg and P test value ONLY)

**** N-Option:**

- Indicate Low, Medium, or High N Option, when requesting tests for **Crop Code 36**.

Check _____ Money Order _____ Cash _____ Total _____

**Please make checks payable to UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA.
 SAMPLES WILL NOT BE PROCESSED WITHOUT PAYMENT.
 Please enclose payment and this sheet in the same package as sample(s)
 Do not send cash through the mail.**

Important Information for Soil Sample Collection and Submission

Before Sampling:

1. Develop a soil sampling plan of your field. Samples should represent the area being tested, so collect samples from areas that are of the same soil type, appearance, or cropping history. Sample problem areas separately, if needed. From this plan, count the number of samples you will collect.
2. Soil sample bags, addressed shipping boxes, and information sheets are available free from your county Cooperative Extension office. Obtain the materials you need to complete your sampling plan.

Collecting Samples:

1. Collect soil from 20 or more spots within each area, mixing these samples in a clean plastic bucket.
2. Sample from soil surface to depth of tillage, usually 0 to 6 inches. For pastures, sample from 0 to 4 inch depth.
3. Spread the composited material on clean paper or other suitable material to air dry. Do not send wet samples.
4. Mix the dry soil, and place about one pint of soil in a labeled sample bag.

Sending samples to the Extension Soil Testing Laboratory:

1. Enter each sample's identification on its sample bag and in the Soil Sample Identification column. List each sample separately.
2. Lime and fertilizer recommendations are provided only if the crop code(s) is listed.
3. Include the analysis code for each desired test.
4. Enter costs from the Analysis Cost list found on page 2 of this form.
5. Sum the costs of all samples and analyses. Make check or money order payable to: **University of Florida**. Checks written in any other name(s) will NOT be honored and returned and will cause avoidable delay in processing the samples.
6. Include the completed Producer Bahia Test Information Sheet and the check or money order in the shipping box with the sample(s).

Test results:

A soil test report will be emailed / mailed to you within 5 to 10 days after your sample arrives at the Extension Soil Testing Laboratory. Contact your county Extension office if you have questions concerning the Bahia Test Report.

| Analysis Test Code | Analysis Name | Determinations Made | Analysis Cost |
|--------------------|---|--|---------------|
| B1 | Standard Soil and Tissue Test (for crop code 36) | pH, lime requirement, P, K, Ca, Mg | \$15.00 |
| 1 | Standard Soil Test (for crop code 36) | pH, lime requirement, K, Ca, Mg and P test value only | \$7.00 |
| 1 | Standard Soil Test (for crop code 35) | pH, lime requirement, P, K, Ca, Mg | \$7.00 |
| 2 | pH and Lime Requirement | pH and lime requirement | \$3.00 |
| 3 | Micronutrient Test | Cu, Mn, Zn | \$5.00 |

Important Information for Bahiagrass (crop codes 35 and 36)

There are two types of tests available for Bahiagrass pastures in Florida (see Table above for details)

Phosphorus Testing and Recommendation for Bahiagrass

- Soil tests alone are not adequate for determining P fertilization needs of Bahiagrass.
- A tissue and soil test must be submitted together to determine P fertilization needs.
- Phosphorus should not be applied if tissue P is at or above 0.15% even if soil tests Very Low or Low for P.
- If P recommendations are not desired and the producer only is interested in K, Mg, Ca levels and pH then a Standard Producer Soil Test will apply. This WILL NOT include P fertilizer recommendations.

Bahiagrass testing for new establishment plantings

- For crop code 35, only 1, 2 and 3 can be requested.
- Decisions concerning liming and N fertilization of bahiagrass pastures are very sensitive to cattle productivity and prices.

How To Take, Prepare, and Submit Plant Tissue Samples (for Analysis B1)

1. Ensure that each sample contains at least a generous handful of plant material (around half a gallon).
2. Do not sample leaves contaminated with soil or sprays. If all tissue is dusty or spray contaminated, wash leaves gently with flowing distilled water.
3. Do not sample disease-, insect-, or mechanically damaged plant tissue.
4. Place tissue samples directly into a clean paper or cloth bag or envelope. Do not use plastic containers. If the plant tissue is wet or succulent, allow plant material to air dry for at least one day, before mailing.
5. When sampling suspected nutrient-deficient plants, two samples are recommended; one sample from normal plants, and another sample from abnormal plants.
6. When sampling, the plant part and plant maturity are important factors. Be sure to collect the proper plant part at the recommended time. A general rule of thumb is to sample the youngest, fully mature leaves during the growth cycle, or just prior to fruit set.
7. Please do not provide any roots along with the sample.