



# IFAS Analytical Services Laboratories Extension Soil Testing Laboratory

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## Phosphorus Index Test Information Sheet

Mailing Address (please print)

**Note: The ESTL Only Tests Samples from the State of Florida**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ FL Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Direct any questions regarding this test or the interpretation of the results to your local USDA-NRCS Office.**

**Fill in all the requested information using one line per sample; use additional sheets as required.**

Lab Use Only	Sample ID	County	Area of the Field (Acres)	Sample Depth (Inches)	Analysis Requested (see page 2 for Analysis Code)	Cost (see page 2)

Check \_\_\_\_\_ Money Order \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECKS/MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO "UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA"  
 SAMPLES WILL NOT BE PROCESSED WITHOUT PAYMENT  
 Please enclose payment and this sheet in the same package as the sample(s)**

### Important Information for 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 local county Cooperative Extension office. Assemble all the materials needed to complete the 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.
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 Sample ID 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**.
6. Include the completed Phosphorus Index 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 mailed to you in about 7 days after your sample arrives at the Extension Soil Testing Laboratory. Contact your county Extension office if you have questions concerning the Soil Test Report.

# Crop and Analysis Codes for Phosphorus Index Test Information Sheet

Although soil test P methods are calibrated very well for crop production, there is serious concern that results from these methods are being inappropriately interpreted to address environmental concerns resulting from nutrient applications. This is particularly true in case of phosphorus losses from the agricultural soils and their impact on water quality. In the absence of any other suitable method, the regulatory agencies are looking towards using soil test P methods and interpretations to regulate nutrient applications on agricultural soils. In order to be able to make a realistic assessment of the risk of phosphorus leaving agricultural lands, a tool has been developed called the 'P-Index', specific to Florida conditions. To have P loss assessment, soil samples should be collected from the specific field(s) and submitted with this along with this form filled completely to the IFAS FSTI at the address above

## AGRONOMIC CROPS

### Crop Code    Field Crops

2	corn, nonirrigated
5	corn, irrigated
9	cotton
7	grain sorghum
8	oats for grain
10	peanuts
8	rye for grain
11	soybeans
13	sugarcane for syrup
12	tobacco (flue cured)
27	wheat for grain

### Crop Code    Pasture and Forage Crops

23	alfalfa
35	bahiagrass, establishment of new plantings
36	bahiagrass; established pasture
26	cool season annual grasses (small grains and ryegrass)
22	cool season legumes or legume-grass mixtures (lupines, sweetclover, vetches and all true clovers C white, red, arrowleaf, crimson, subterranean)
32	hay or silage (perennial grass)
25	improved perennial grasses other than bahiagrass (bermuda, digit, star)
33	limpograss (Hemarthria)
28	perennial peanuts
14	summer forages (e.g., millet or sorghum)
21	warm season legumes or legume-grass mixtures (aeschynomene, alyceclover, desmodium, hairy indigo and other tropical legumes)

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Please use the **Landscape & Vegetable Garden Test Information Sheet (SL-136)** for home gardens. Codes for particular vegetables will result in fertilizer recommendations for commercial vegetable production which are not appropriate for home vegetable gardens.

Crop Code	Crop Description	Crop Code	Crop Description
217	Bean Lima, Pole, Snap	227	Okra
228	Beet	223	Onion, Bulb
212	Broccoli	229	Onion, Bunching
212	Brussels Sprouts	204	Parsley
207	Cabbage B Head or Chinese	216	Pea B English, Snow or Southern
226	Carrot	201	Pepper B Bell or Specialty
212	Cauliflower	215	Potato, Irish
214	Celery	218	Potato, Sweet
207	Collard	230	Pumpkin Squash
220	Corn, Sweet	219	Radish
211	Cucumber	210	Spinach
203	Eggplant	230	Squash B Summer or Winter
225	Kale	224	Strawberry
229	Leek	200	Tomato B Cherry or Slicing
209	Lettuce B Crisphead, Endive, Escarole or Romaine	225	Turnip
205	Muskmelon	221	Watermelon
225	Mustard		

## FRUIT CROPS

Except for pH and lime requirement, and in some cases P, soil tests are not used as a basis for fertilization of perennial fruit and nut crops in Florida. Program fertilization is practiced, and plant tissue testing is helpful in certain crops. Tissue testing is available from commercial labs. Consult with your county Extension agent about interpretation before taking samples.

Crop Code	Crop Description
60	citrus (establishment)
61	citrus (bearing trees)
67	blueberry (bearing)

## ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Do not use this form for potting media used in containers. Use the **Container Media Test (SL-134)**. For fertilization of plants in the landscape, use the **Landscape & Vegetable Garden Test Information Sheet (SL-136)**.

Crop Code	Crop Description
601	commercial nursery growing azaleas, camellias, gardenias, hibiscus, or ixora in the ground
600	commercial woody ornamental nursery growing plants other than azaleas, camellias, gardenias, hibiscus or ixora in the ground
71	athletic field, golf green, tee, or fairway

Analysis Code	Analysis Name	Determinations Made	Analysis Cost
1	Standard Soil Fertility Test AND <b>The Phosphorus Capacity Index Test</b>	pH, lime requirement, K, Ca, and Mg	\$15.00
P1	Phosphorus Capacity Index Test (Mehlich 3 Extraction method)	pH, P, Al, Fe (Capacity Index of soil)	\$10.00
<b>* Standard Soil Fertility Test is discounted in price ONLY when Phosphorus Capacity Index test is chosen</b>			