

## List of our available tests and test packages:

### Landscape and Vegetable Garden Test

pH, lime requirement, P, K, Ca, Mg, S, B, Cu, Mn, Zn.

### Producer Soil Test

pH, lime requirement, P, K, Ca, Mg, S, B, Cu, Mn, Zn.

**Options:** Organic matter (OM), Electrical conductivity (EC), total C, total N.

### Nutrient Testing for Bahia Pastures

**Soil:** pH, lime requirement, P, K, Ca, Mg, S, B, Cu, Mn, Zn.

**Options:** OM, EC, total C, total N. Tissue: P, K, Ca, Fe, Mg, Mn, Zn, Cu, B. Option: Total N

### Container Media Test

pH, EC, NO<sub>3</sub>-N, P, K, Ca, Mg.

### Producer Citrus Test

**Soil:** pH, lime requirement, P, K, Ca, Mg, S, B, Cu, Mn, Zn.

**Options:** OM, EC, total C, total N.

**Tissue:** P, K, Ca, Mg, Fe, B, Cu, Mn, Zn.

**Option:** Total N.

### Commercial Sod Test

pH, lime requirement, P, K, Ca, Mg, S, B, Cu, Mn, Zn.

**Options:** OM, EC, total C, total N.

### Pine Nursery Soil Test

pH, P, K, Ca, Mg, S, B, Cu, Mn, Zn, OM.

### Water Test

Ca, Mg, total carbonates, Fe, Mn, Na, Cl, EC, pH, suspended solids.

### Plant Tissue Test

N, P, K, Ca, Mg, Fe, Mn, Zn, Cu, B.

### Livestock Waste Test

pH, N, P, K, NH<sub>4</sub>-N, Cu, Zn, Mn, % moisture, % solids, % ash.

For more information,  
contact your local  
UF/IFAS Extension office

### UF/IFAS Extension Soil Testing Laboratory

2390 Mowry Road, Building 631  
PO Box 110740

Gainesville, FL 32611-0740  
352-392-1950

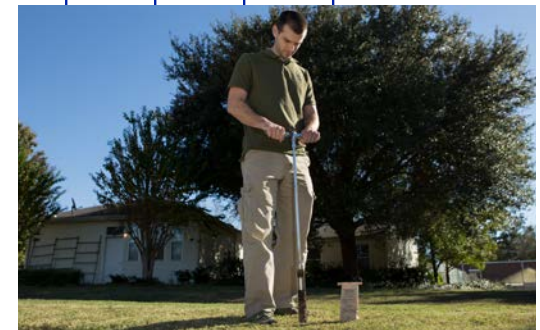
Email: [soilslab@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:soilslab@ifas.ufl.edu)  
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UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



SOIL, WATER, AND  
ECOSYSTEM SCIENCES

# UF/IFAS Extension SOIL TESTING LABORATORY



## DON'T GUESS, GET A SOIL TEST

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## Why test my soil?

Florida has plenty of sunshine and rainfall, but its soils are often lacking in nutrients and other attributes necessary for good plant growth. To improve your soil's productivity, you should know each of the following soil attributes:

- pH
- Lime requirement
- Major nutrient status (P,K, Ca, Mg, S)
- Micronutrient status (Cu, Mn, Zn, B)
- Irrigation water quality

If you do not have this information, a soil test may help. The UF/IFAS Extension Soil Testing Laboratory (ESTL) conducts tests on soil samples the year around. ESTL offers soil tests for home and commercial growers.

## How do I take a soil sample?

1. Before soil sampling, develop a sampling plan for your yard, landscape, or field. Samples should represent the area being tested. Collect soil from areas of the same soil type, appearance, or cropping history. Problem areas or areas that are different from one another should be sampled and submitted separately. Many yards or landscapes can be represented by 1 or 2 samples, but a variable landscape may require more. Soil sampling on farms can involve fields as large as 20 to 40 acres. These fields should be subdivided into sampling zones based on soil variability, with soil samples collected and analyzed separately for each zone.
2. Contact your local county extension office for soil sample bags and sample submission forms free of charge, as well as advice about sampling. Forms are also available on our website. Assemble all the materials you need to complete sampling according to your plan.
3. When sampling farm fields, collect soil from about 20 places within each sampling zone. Mix the soil in a clean plastic bucket.
4. Sample soil from the surface to the depth of tillage, usually 4 to 6 inches.
5. Spread the mixed soil on clean paper or other suitable material to air dry. Do not send wet samples.
6. Mix the dry soil, and place about one cup of soil in a labeled sample bag or to the dotted line on our sampling bag.

## How do I send samples to the lab?

1. Enter each sample's identification on its sample bag or bottle and in the "Your Sample Identification" column. List each sample separately.
2. Include the **Test Code** for each desired test or circle the cost of the test. Enter costs for the analysis in the cost column.
3. **Crop Codes** are required to get lime and fertilizer recommendations. Crop Codes can be found on the back of the forms. You can select up to 6 crop codes per sample at no additional charge. If a desired crop code is not listed, contact your local extension office for a recommendation.
4. Sum the costs of all samples and analyses. Make check or money order payable to the **University of Florida**.
5. Include the completed Test Information Sheet and the check or money order in the shipping box with the sample(s).

## How long before I receive my results?

Typically, a test report will be emailed/mailed to you within 3 to 5 working days after your sample arrives at the ESTL. Contact your county extension agent at the number and address listed on your report with any questions about the report and its recommendations.

More information about plant nutrient problems may be obtained with a plant tissue test and/or a water test.

## What other tests can I get?

ESTL offers testing for irrigation water samples, plant tissue and livestock waste.

### Irrigation Water Test

An irrigation water test may be important, as hardness, high salt content, and fine sediment can clog the nozzles of irrigation systems. Water quality is particularly important to those depending on wells for irrigation and those using reclaimed water for landscape irrigation. Reclaimed water may at times contain some plant essential minerals.

### Plant Tissue Test

Determining nutrient concentration in plant tissue samples can be important for perennial plants, crops, and home lawns (all plant species that grow more than a season or a year).

A plant tissue test is recommended especially when the leaves exhibit any deficiency symptoms or when growth is inhibited. In the case of perennial plant species, a soil test alone may not provide the necessary insight on nutrient deficiencies. Certain physiological imbalances may occur, either inhibiting uptake from soils or use within the plants after uptake, despite application of nutrients to the soil per the recommendations. Additional diagnosis and nutrient adjustments may help overcome deficiencies and growth imbalances.

The need for water and/or plant tissue tests can be ascertained and additional information on any of the tests can be obtained by contacting your local extension agent or Florida Master Gardener Volunteer at your local Extension Office.

