



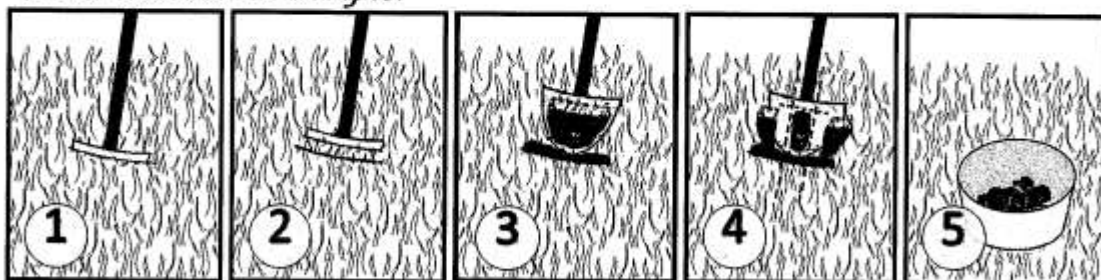
# Get Your Soil Tested

by the University of Missouri Extension

## Why should you have your soil tested?

- Soil conditions have a big effect on plant health
- pH and nutrient levels can change over time
- You may be over-fertilizing your lawn or garden
- Testing is the only way to tell which nutrients might be missing

## How to collect a sample:



1 Make one cut into the ground as deep as the shovel will go.

2 Make another cut 1 inch behind the first.

3 Tilt the shovel back and lift out the soil slice.

4 Keep the middle of the slice. Cut any grass or other plants off the top.

5 Repeat 9 to 10 times in the area. Mix the samples together in a plastic bucket.

- For lawns, sample to a 3-4 inch depth.
- Take other samples at a 6 inch depth.
- Break up any clods.
- Samples must be air-dried and thoroughly mixed.
- Make sure all insects, worms, ants, have been removed from the sample
- Bring 1 pint (2 cups) in a plastic bag (a regular sandwich bag is sufficient).
- Results will be returned 10-14 days after the sample is submitted.

## What does it tell you?

Your test results will tell you the status of the nutrients below. You will get specific recommendations to improve plant health.

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| • pH             | • Magnesium (Mg)   |
| • Phosphorus (P) | • % Organic Matter |
| • Potassium (K)  | • CEC              |
| • Calcium (Ca)   | • N.A.             |

## What does it cost?

\$30 per sample—includes shipping

## Where to bring your sample

MU Extension in St Charles County  
260 Brown Road  
St. Peters, MO 63376  
636-970-3000  
M-F 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM



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extension.missouri.edu/stlouls

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