



## To Start – Take a Soil Sample

The first step to a great garden is taking a soil sample. Knowing what the soil needs to make the plants grow well before planting is key to successful gardening.

A soil sample will give nutrient levels and the pH of the soil providing a place to start with fertilizers and selection of plants.

To take a soil sample, select an area – flower beds, lawn, vegetable garden. Use a garden trowel or soil probe to take 10-12 samples around the entire area. Take a slice of soil from the surface down 6 inches for each sample. Place samples in clean bucket and stir all samples together. Take 2 cups from the bucket and put in plastic bag. Take the soil bag to the nearest County Extension office and receive the results in approximately 2 weeks.

The soil sample results will detail what to add to the soil for the best gardening results. A soil sample taken every three years will provide adequate information to care for your gardens and lawns.