



Agro-One

Agronomy Services

Winter 2014 Newsletter



Welcome to the Agro-One Home Owner Newsletter!

We are starting a seasonal newsletter for our Home Owner and Garden customers to address their specific needs and concerns. In the newsletter, we will cover lawn care, garden management, and other topics like picking fertilizers and creating your own compost. We look forward to your responses and questions to the newsletters.

Fall Soil Sampling - What is it good for?

There is still time to get soil samples in for fall management applications and for winter planning. There are 2 advantages to soil sampling lawns and gardens in the fall: 1. Fall applications of soil amendments (lime, potash, composts, or manures) can be made to allow for interaction through the fall, winter, and spring, and 2. Test results are available to make decisions for the following year.

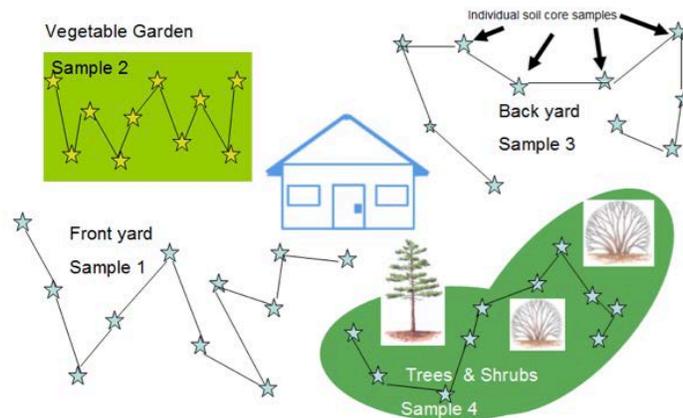
How to take a good soil sample

For the best results, it's imperative that proper sampling procedures are followed. Having a soil probe will make sampling faster and easier. There are many online vendors, or often one can be borrowed from an ag retailer, extension office, or soil and water conservation district. Contact the Agro-One Soil lab for soil testing kits and appropriate sample submission forms at <http://dairyone.com/analytical-services/agronomy-services/about-agro-one/> or 607-257-1272 x2179.

Each sample should represent only one area - for example, a lawn, vegetable garden or perennial landscaped area (Figure 1). In each unique area, take at least 10 - 12 cores. Results will be more useful for troubleshooting if you submit samples from healthy and unhealthy areas separately.

- * Lawns that are not going to be turned over or re-sodded should be sampled to a depth of 4 inches.
- * Sample shrubbery & perennial beds to a depth of 4 - 6 inches taking care to avoid zones where lime or fertilizer has been applied recently.
- * Sample annual vegetable and flower beds to the depth that you plan to incorporate lime or fertilizer, usually about 4 - 6 inches.

Place all cores for one unique area in a clean plastic bucket and mix well.



Prepare Samples for Shipment

If possible, spread wet samples in a thin layer on a clean surface and dry at room temperature. Do not use heat, but a fan is acceptable to assist in drying. Remove large stones or sticks and break up large lumps or clods before mixing the sample thoroughly.

Complete the required information on the sample box before assembling and make sure that it matches the information on the sample information sheet. Place about $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 pint of the mixed sample in the sample box then close it securely.

Results and Recommendations

The results of the soil test should be received in 5 to 10 days after they have been received by the lab. Lime and fertility recommendations are based on the soil type, soil texture and soil drainage, so be sure to include that information on your sample submitting sheet. Soil type information can be obtained from the [Web Soil Survey](#) online or with some assistance from your local NRCS of Extension office.

Recommendations on the report will include, lime, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and sulfur. In the fall, you can apply lime and potassium. If lime is needed, it should be applied in the fall so the lime has time to interact with the soil. In a lawn, this is important so that the lime can be naturally incorporated by freeze-thaw cycles, rainfall, and snow melt. If you are fertilizing with a high organic matter compost of manure, fall is a good time to incorporate the material or use it to insulate the garden. Any fall applications of nutrients such as compost, manure or fertilizer need to take into consideration the site's potential for the nutrients to run off or leach during the winter and spring.

Any questions about taking soil samples, submitting soil samples, or interpreting results can be directed to Sally Flis sally.flis@dairyone.com or 607-229-5337.

Contact our customer service department today at 1-800-344-2697 x 2172 for more information or to order sample kits and forms. You can also order supplies by emailing your request to supply@dairyone.com or from our website <http://dairyone.com/shop/>

Agro-One offers state of the art analysis, timely turn around, outstanding customer service and is a strong supporter of the Certified Crop Adviser's Program.

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