



# Instructions for Completing the Soil Sample Form

**Client Information:** At the top of the page enter – Name / Address / Phone Number / Date  
Ignore Company Line unless you are a company.

**Account:** The County Extension office must enter the code for that county office.

**Email Address:** Enter your email address in this space if you would like to receive an email notification telling you when your report is ready for you to access on the web. If you enter an email address you will not receive a hard copy of your report.

**Grower's Sample Number:** Enter your sample identification number in this space. If you submit more than one sample make sure your sample numbers are different. Make sure that the sample number on the soil box matches the sample number on the form for every sample submitted.

**Soil Code:** Enter the appropriate (best describing your soil) code from the list below.

- 1 - Sandy, greater than 40 inches to clay
- 2 - Coarse loamy, 20-40 inches to clay
- 3 - Fine loamy, 0-20 inches to clay
- 4 - Clayey, clay on surface
- 6 - Organic soils and artificial mixes

**Plant/Crop Codes – Crop Names:** From the list below, enter the code number and name for the type plants you are growing, or plan to grow, – You may enter up to four (4) for each sample. (Example: “094” in the Crop Code boxes and “Centipede Lawn” in the Crop(s) to Be Grown boxes. Your results will contain a separate fertilizer recommendation for each crop listed.

**Crop Codes** -Recommendations for these will be given per 100 or 1000 square feet.

## Vegetable Gardens and Home Orchards

- 090 Home Garden - includes herbs (Inorganic fertilization)
- 091 Home Garden - includes herbs (Organic fertilization)
- 089 Home Orchards
- 018 Trees, Ornamental and Shade

## Lawns and Small Area Turf

- 094 Centipede Lawn
- 119 St. Augustine Lawn
- 047 Turf Establishment (use crop code 094 when est. a Centipede lawn)
- 048 Warm Season Grass Maint. - incl. Zoysia, Bermuda, etc. (not Centipede or St. Augustine)

## Shrubs, Flowers and Trees

- 017 Annual Flowers and Roses
- 016 Perennial Flowers
- 096 Azaleas, Camellias, Gardenias and other Acid-loving Plants
- 015 Shrubs (Other than Acid-loving)

Check the Standard box and write “\$5.00” in the column labeled Sample Fee.

**Total Amount Due:** Add up the total amount due in the Sample Fee column and enter at the bottom of the sheet in the space labeled Total. If paying by check enter your check number. Make checks payable to Clemson University Extension or CUCES. The form will be reviewed and approved by an Extension representative before forwarding it to the lab.

You will receive a report by mail or email which will give test results along with fertilizer and lime recommendations for the plants you wish to grow. The time for processing and sending your report may vary from two to four weeks, depending on the time of year. The report is not as complicated as it may look. Call or bring it to the local Clemson Extension Office if you need help interpreting it.

# Lawn and Garden Soil Testing Guide

One of the most important steps in soil testing is collecting the sample.

**Important: Soil test results can be no better than the sample submitted to the laboratory for analysis, so read and follow these instructions carefully.**

## **Choose the Areas You Wish to Sample**

Remember that different parts of your yard may have received different treatment over the years. You may want to make a sketch and label areas sampled and record sample numbers or names you used for each area.

**Remember that problem areas should be sampled separately!!**

## **Gather Equipment and Supplies Needed**

Sample Box (or plastic bag that will hold one pint of soil)

Soil Sample Information Form and Instructions-Your local Clemson Extension Office will provide boxes and forms upon request.

Spade, Garden Trowel or Soil Probe

Plastic Bucket

Always use clean sampling tools and containers.

Never use tools or containers that have been used for mixing or applying fertilizer or lime. A small amount of residue left in containers can cause serious contamination of the sample.

## **Collect Soil from Several Places in the Sample Area**

Take soil from 4 to 8 different spots around a section of your yard which will be represented by one sample. Clear away grass, twigs and leaves from the surface of the ground. Using a spade, garden trowel or soil probe, take samples by removing a slice of soil from the top down to a depth of 3 to 4 inches below the surface for turf and 5 to 6 inches for gardens, shrubs, and fruit tree areas. Put the soil into a clean plastic bucket and repeat in the other spots in sample area. Try to get about the same amount of soil at each location.

## **Mix Sample**

Thoroughly mix soil from all spots in this sample area together in plastic bucket. Once you have mixed the soil sample, allow it to dry thoroughly. Please do not submit wet samples.

Repeat these steps for any other areas which you wish to sample.

Be sure to keep a record of the area represented by each sample.

## **Package and Deliver**

Fill box completely. You may use a separate plastic bag (One Pint) if necessary.

NEVER place checks or notes inside a bag with soil. The amount of moisture even in DRY soil will destroy paper...including checks and money!!!

Label bags & boxes on the outside.

Do not use glass jars, metal cans of any sort, match boxes, etc...

Take or mail your sample and completed Soil Sample Information Form to the local Clemson Extension Office along with a check or money order for Five Dollars (\$5.00) per sample, made payable to CUCES.

Do Not Send Cash.

**Please note that the price is per sample with up to four crop recommendations.**

You will receive a report by mail or email which will give test results along with fertilizer and lime recommendations for the plants you wish to grow. The time for processing and sending your report may vary from two to four weeks, depending on the time of year. Spring is the busiest time for the lab, so we suggest you have your testing done during the other seasons. The report is not as complicated as it may look. Call or bring it to the local Clemson Extension Office if you need help interpreting it.