

Soil Testing Guide for Lawns & Gardens

Sample areas according to their management. For example, if the entire lawn will be managed the same, one composite sample for the entire lawn is adequate. If the front lawn will be managed differently than the back lawn, collect a composite sample for both lawn areas. Take multiple sub-samples (10 or more for large areas such as lawns) to comprise one composite sample for each management area. Sub-samples should be taken from the 0–6 inch depth. Mix sub-samples together thoroughly in a bucket, then fill the soil sample box. If texture is desired, fill two soil sample boxes. Label the box with your name and sample ID.

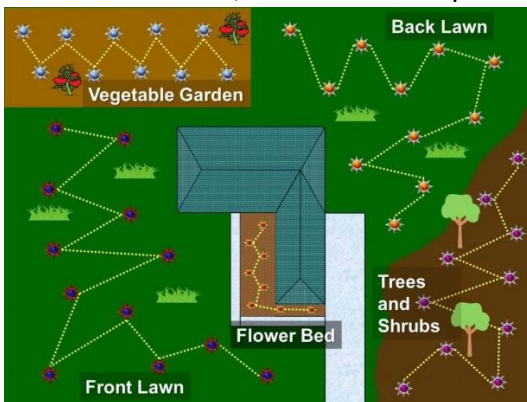
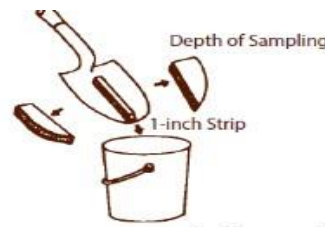
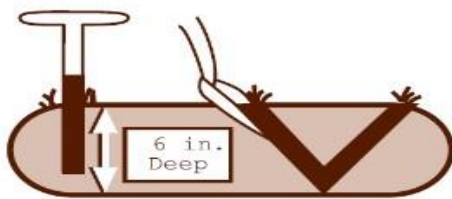


Figure 1. Sample areas according to management, i.e., vegetable garden is managed differently than the lawn



Figures 2 and 3. Sample 0 to 6 inches deep with probe or shovel. Images from UTIA Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science Department publication Soil Testing PB1061 by Hugh Savoy.

- Fill out the Lawn & Garden Soil Submission Sheet with corresponding information so the lab can match the sample to the sheet and payment. Use the crop code to identify the plants or lawn species to be grown.

****Raised Bed Gardens** with minimal soil from the ground & a high percentage of “bagged” soil/growing media should use the Container Media Test which requires a half gallon bag of material and the Container Media Test Submission Sheet.

How to pay for and get your sample to the lab:

- Samples may be shipped or dropped off at address above. See website at <https://soillab.tennessee.edu/shipping-soil-sample-helpful-hints/> for shipping and payment instructions.
- You can leave your sample and payment at the Rutherford County Extension office, but it **may take 2 weeks** for us to deliver it to the lab.

Results and recommendations will be sent by e-mail and US Mail