

Red Hen Turf Farm's Soil Test Instructions and Pricing



This soil testing procedure takes very little time, and it will help us design your **Custom Fertilizer Program**. Soil testing is a very beneficial route to take to help understand what fertilizers your lawn needs. We do not recommend **home soil test kits** purchased from stores, because they are not as accurate.

There is no specific best time to collect soil samples, but try to avoid times when the soil is excessively dry or wet. **If you have recently fertilized your lawn, it is best to wait 8 - 12 weeks after application before collecting a soil sample.** Soil samples should be re-tested once every 2-3 years.

The tools you will need for collecting a soil sample are a **soil probe, trowel, or spade**. You will also need a **plastic bucket**. (Using a metal bucket could contaminate the sample)

1. **Soil test payment is due at time of processing paperwork.** The first soil sample bag = \$25.00. For bags 2 – 4, there will be an additional charge of \$10.00 per soil sample bag. (2 soil sample bags = \$35.00 * 3 soil sample bags = \$45.00 * 4 soil sample bags = \$55.00)
2. Divide your lawn into **major areas**. Front yard, back yard, and large side yards are usually major areas. You'll need to prepare a **Soil Sample Bag** for each major area you want to test.
3. **On each Soil Sample Bag:**
 - a. Fill in your **Name** and **Address**
 - b. For **Sample Number**, it is suggested you start with 1 = Front Yard, 2 = Back Yard, & 3 = Side Yard for major areas. If you have more than three major areas that you're testing, continue with 4, 5, etc. on the other bags using the same format.
 - c. Check the **box** that says "**Surface Soil**".
4. **For each Sample Bag you'll be using**, collect at least 3 soil samples within each **major area**. (You'll end up mixing together the 3 samples from the major area.)
 - a. Collect the first sample by using your digging tool to make 2 v-cuts in the soil to remove the v-cut plug, and set the v-cut plug aside.
 - b. Sample to a depth of 4 – 6 inches. Next take a 1 inch thick slice off the backside of the hole where the v-cut plug was removed. Discard the thatch and leaves.
 - c. Put the first soil sample in a clean plastic container.
 - d. Replace the v-cut plug back in the hole.
 - e. Gather 2 more samples in the same manner, then mix the 3 collected soil samples in the plastic container.
 - f. From the plastic container, fill the labeled **Soil Sample Bag** to the indicated level and discard the rest.
5. Return your sample bag(s) to Red Hen Turf Farm. Be sure you have marked your bags with a **sample number, name of major area** (Use "**Field #**" line on bag for name of **major area**), your **name** and **address**, and have checked **surface soil** box.
6. Within about 2 - 3 weeks, Red Hen Turf will receive the lab's **detailed analysis**. At that time, we will mail you a copy of the detailed analysis along with our recommendations in the form of your **Custom Fertilizer Program**.
7. Please call us when you have received our recommendation so we can explain what your next steps are.

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