

Interpreting a Soil-Test Report

Soil tests are one of the most valuable services we provide for our customers. It details information that allows for the development and implementation of improved fertility programs that, in turn, help turf and ornamentals in a multitude of ways, including:

- Thicker, more even turf
- Better foliage color
- Improved drought resistance
- Improved resistance to disease and insect stresses

1. CEC (Cation Exchange Capacity) – Nutrients available for plant use.

2. Soil pH (The term pH is used to express the acidity or alkalinity of the soil. It is measured on a scale of 0 to 14, with 7.0 being neutral.

3. Lime Index – This test determines the amount of lime needed to correct an acid soil.

4. OM (Organic Matter) – Provides nutrients, holds water and improves soil porosity by preventing clay particles from sticking to each other.

5. P, K, Ca and Mg (Phosphorous, potassium, calcium and magnesium) – Important nutrients that plant require in relatively large amounts for optimal growth. Reports express soil levels for most of these nutrients in pounds per 1,000 square feet.

6. Base Saturation – This is the percentage of the total CEC (negatively charged sites in the soils) occupied by that cations potassium, calcium and magnesium.

7. N (Nitrogen) – Normally not part of a soil test because nitrogen is highly mobile in soil.

Knowing and understanding the make-up of your soil is your first step to improving your landscape's overall appearance and health. If you have not yet done a soil test report, we urge you to consider doing one now. By doing so you will have healthier landscaping and shrubs and will probably save money in the process.



Graphical Soil Analysis Report																						
SOIL ANALYSIS REPORT (SEE EXPLANATION ON BACK)																						
DATE OF REPORT		02/19/99		PAGE		1																
SAMPLE NUMBER	LAB NUMBER	ORGANIC MATTER %	ENR	PHOSPHORUS		POTASSIUM	MAGNESIUM	CALCIUM		SODIUM		pH	BUFFER INDEX	HYDROGEN H	Cation Exchange Capacity C.E.C. mg/100g	PERCENT CATION SATURATION (COMPUTED)						
				ppm-P RATE	ppm-P RATE	K	Mg	Ca	Na	% K	% Mg					% Ca	% H	% Na				
1	57808	1.6L	61	42VH	50VH	228M	715VH	3663H	126L	7.4	0.0	25.3	2.3	23.3	72.3	0.0	2.2					
SAMPLE NUMBER	INROGEN NO3-N	SULFUR SO4-S	ZINC Zn	MANGANESE MN	IRON Fe	COPPER Cu	BORON B	EXCESS LIME	SOLUBLE SALTS	CHLORIDE Cl	PARTICLE SIZE ANALYSIS											
											% SAND	% SILT	% CLAY	SOIL TEXTURE								
1	2VL	12M	3.3H	4M	35VH	1.7H	0.4L	L	0.4L													

* CODE TO RATING: VERY LOW (VL), LOW (L), MEDIUM (M), HIGH (H), VERY (VH), AND NONE (N).
 ** ENR - ESTIMATED NITROGEN RELEASE
 *** MULTIPLY THE RESULTS IN ppm BY 2 TO CONVERT TO LBS. PER ACRE OF THE ELEMENTAL FORM
 **** MULTIPLY THE RESULTS IN ppm BY 4.6 TO CONVERT TO LBS. PER ACRE P205
 ***** MULTIPLY THE RESULTS IN ppm BY 2.4 TO CONVERT TO LBS. PER ACRE K2O
 MOST SOILS WEIGH TWO (2) MILLION POUNDS (DRY WEIGHT) FOR AN ACRE OF SOIL 6-2/3 INCHES DEEP.

Spring Landscaping Punch list

Soil Test

Determine the best course of action to take, develop a plan and budget ahead.

Ornamental Pest Control

Get pests under control early and avoid permanent damage to your ornamental landscaping.

Install Color

For best quality and selection, order color early. This will ensure availability when you need it.

Snail Bait

Start early and get them under control before they can do real damage to new growth in the spring.

Irrigation

Check for leaks that may have developed over the winter, broken pipes and prepare for the hot months ahead.

Fire Marshal Abatement

Save time, money, headache and lives by removing the growth near and around buildings that is a hazard in the hot summer months.

Fertilize

Summer is too late to capture the prime spring growing season for plants and also may be too hot for some fertilizers.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do you do a Soil Test Report?

Depending on the size of your property, a Soil test can be done with as few as one sample. This sample is then sent to a laboratory for analysis.

How long does it take?

The test sampling is very fast and in most cases can be taken in less than one hour.

How much does it cost?

A basic report can cost as low as \$50. A more comprehensive report will run \$100 to \$150.

How soon will I have the results?

Results are usually received in two to three weeks.

How will the information be used?

A comprehensive fertilization and treatment program will be developed using the data from the report.

Will I see immediate results?

Visual results can usually be seen in about one month.

Do I need to do another one every year?

Yes. This report is easy to do and very cost effective. Since conditions can change from year to year, we recommend a new test every spring.



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