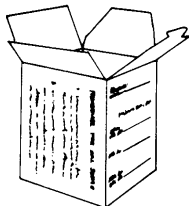


# SOIL TESTING for the homeowner

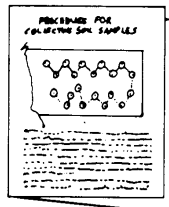
## Four steps for taking a soil sample

**1**

Get the needed supplies from your county Extension office. They have soil sample boxes and information sheets.



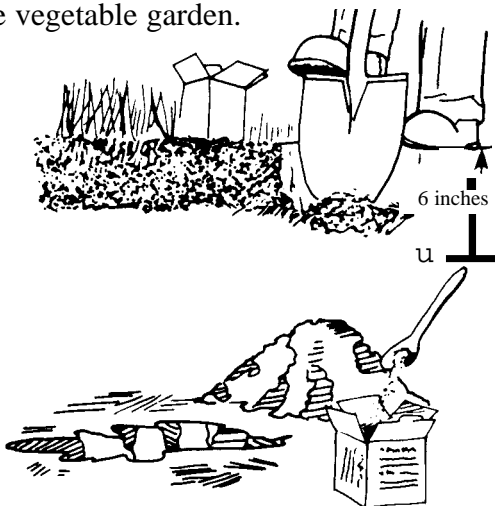
Soil sample boxes



Information sheets

**3**

**To take a soil sample:** Take a small amount of soil from the top 4- to 6-inch depth and place in a bucket. Repeat process 15 to 20 times from different places in the area or plot you are sampling. Use a separate sample box for each area; for example, one sample box for the side lawn, one sample box for the front lawn, and one sample box for the vegetable garden.



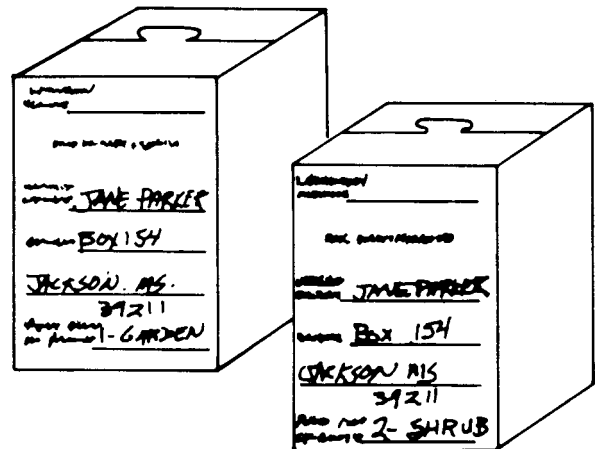
**2**

If you are sampling the area around your home divide your home area into different plots, according to use.



**4**

Put your name, address, and sample number on each box of soil.



# Four steps for sending soil samples to the lab

## 1 Fill out the Information Sheet

Name and address                      Sample name or numbers  
(use 5 or less digits or letters)                      Problems you may be having

County in which you live                      Send payment plus top sheet to this address

**Soil Testing Laboratory, Mississippi State University**                      Number of samples x \$6 charge

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Describe any specific problems \_\_\_\_\_

Send \$6 per sample submitted.  
Mail this copy with a check or money order for total charges to: Soil Testing Laboratory                      TOTAL CHARGES  
Box 9610  
Mississippi State, MS 39762                      SAMPLES @ \$6 EACH = \_\_\_\_\_

Please print CLEARLY and PRESS FIRMLY so all copies will be readable.

Field number (5 spaces or less)					
Crop to be grown (Use code # from below)					

Names and addresses of those (other than farmer and county agent) who want a copy \_\_\_\_\_ MAIL WITH PAYMENT

Crop Code Number – Choose the appropriate code numbers for the crops you wish to grow, and place the number here.

## 2

Make check or money order (no cash please) payable to Soil Testing Laboratory and mail the top sheet with \$6 per sample box to:

Soil Testing Laboratory  
Box 9610  
Mississippi State, MS 39762

## 3

Mail the second copy and soil samples to:  
Soil Testing Laboratory  
Box 9610  
Mississippi State, MS 39762

**CROP CODE NUMBERS. Regular tests** on all samples include pH, Lime requirement, Phosphorus, Potassium, Calcium, Magnesium, Sodium, and Zinc.

- LAWN GRASSES**  
16 Common bermuda, zoysia  
69 Centipede, carpetgrass  
72 Creeping red fescue  
14 St. Augustine  
68 Hybrid bermuda  
71 Tall fescue  
73 Kentucky bluegrass

## 4

Keep the third copy for your files. You will find additional helpful information on the lower front and back of this third sheet. You will also find helpful information in the *Garden Tabloid*, Publication 1091, and *Home and Lawn Tabloid*, Publication 1322.

- HOME HORTICULTURE – Regular Tests plus Total Soluble Salts**  
7 Deciduous, non-acid-loving trees and shrubs  
8 Roses  
17 Home vegetable garden  
48 Evergreen, acid-loving trees and shrubs  
20 Home orchard  
77 Deciduous, acid-loving trees and shrubs  
79 Evergreen, non-acid-loving trees and shrubs  
80 Palms, yuccas, and ornamental grasses  
81 Perennial flowers  
82 Annual flowers and herbs  
83 Groundcovers  
84 Vines  
85 Strawberries  
86 Citrus trees and loquats (Japanese Plum)  
87 Blueberries  
88 Cane fruits (berries)  
89 Muscadines and grapes  
90 Nut trees  
91 Cole vegetables  
92 Tomatoes

**msu**cares.com

By **Dr. Keith Crouse**, Soil Testing Specialist, and **Dr. Will McCarty**, Extension Leader, Plant and Soil Sciences

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### Information Sheet 1294

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