

# Lawn and Garden Soil Sampling Information Sheet

Date Sampled \_\_\_\_\_

Soil Testing Laboratory • Box 2207A • South Dakota State University • Brookings, SD 57007-1096 • (605) 688-4766  
E-mail: sdsu\_soillab@sdsu.edu Web: http://plantsci.sdsu.edu/soiltest/

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Extra Copy sent to: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Read the instructions on the back. Fill in as completely as you can.

| Soil Sample   |           |                   |        |  |                                   | Tests Desired (✓)  |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                    |
|---|-----------|-------------------|--------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Lab Number<br><small>(Do not write below, for lab use only)</small> | Sample ID | Depth of Sampling | County | Type of Sample Taken<br><small>(New, lawn, established lawn, vegetable garden, flower garden, fruit trees, shrubs, golf tees, green, fairways, etc.)</small> | (✓)<br>Is area watered regularly? | Regular Series*    | Zinc              | Iron              | Manganese         | Copper            | Calcium Magnesium | Sulfur            | Lime need         | Boron              |
|   |           |                   |        |  |                                   |                    |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                    |
|   |           |                   |        |  |                                   |                    |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                    |
|   |           |                   |        |  |                                   |                    |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                    |
|   |           |                   |        |  |                                   |                    |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                    |
| <b>Charges Per Sample</b>   |           |                   |        |  |                                   | \$14 <sup>00</sup> | \$4 <sup>00</sup> | \$4 <sup>00</sup> | \$4 <sup>00</sup> | \$4 <sup>00</sup> | \$7 <sup>00</sup> | \$8 <sup>00</sup> | \$7 <sup>00</sup> | \$11 <sup>00</sup> |

Indicate special problems or comments. Note if shading, weeds, insects, diseases, water, etc., are a problem. List vegetables, grasses, fruits, flowers, trees, and shrubs of special interest.

\* Includes nitrate-nitrogen, organic matter, phosphorus, potassium, pH, soluble salts, texture class. (For the vast majority of South Dakota soils, the regular series of tests will be sufficient.)

Appropriate state and city sales tax should be added to total charges.

Prices are subject to change without notice.

Sketch area(s) sampled for your information.

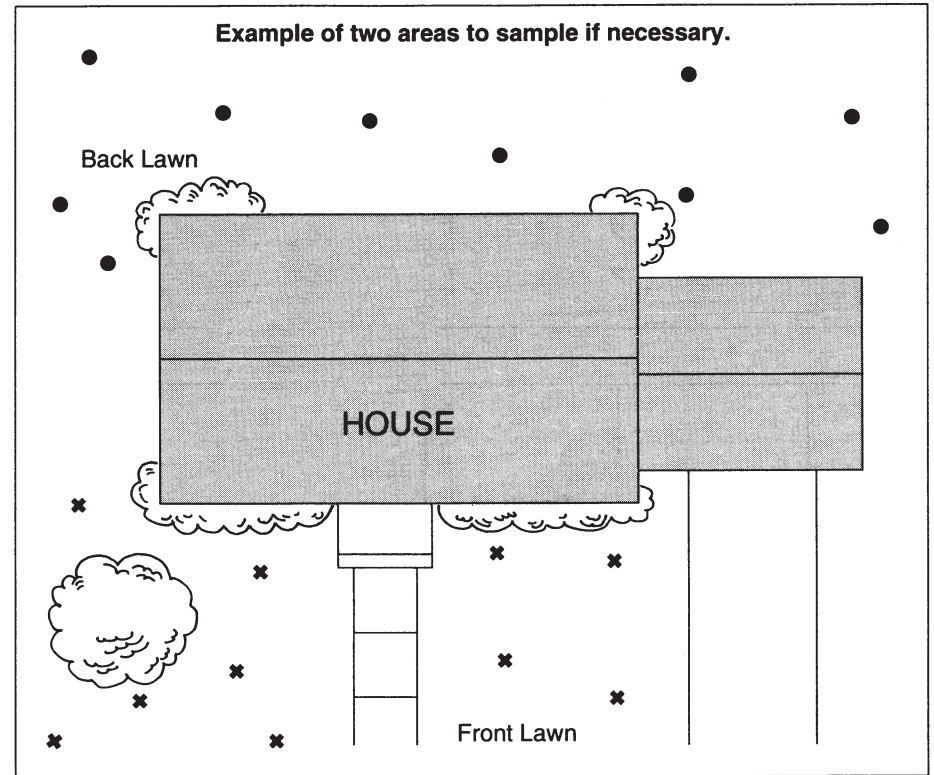
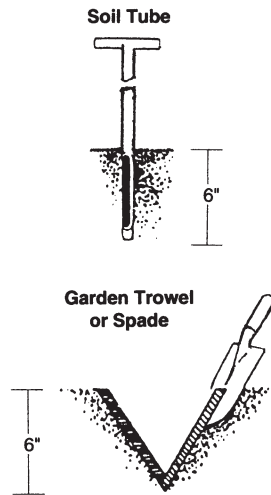
Sampling instructions on back.

# How to take a Soil Sample

Soil tests can be no better than the sample. Therefore, proper collection of the soil sample is extremely important. To obtain a good sample, follow the directions below.

## Taking a Sample

1. Depth of sample:  
Existing Grass 0"-3"  
New Grass Seeding 0"-6"  
Gardens 0"-6"  
Trees and shrubs 0"-12"
2. Use a garden trowel, spade, sampling tube or auger. Scrape away or discard any surface mat of grass or litter. Sample the lawn and garden areas to the depth indicated above.
3. Place the soil in a clean container. Repeat sampling in 10 spots within the area. Mix soil well to make a composite (mixed) sample. Take out one pint and label for identification purposes.
4. If samples are wet, air dry (do not heat) before placing in containers.



## When to Sample

Soil samples may be taken any time during the year. However, if soil is frozen or too wet, obtaining a good sample is very difficult.

## Where to Sample

1. If the area is fairly level and the spot appears to be uniform, collect a composite sample.
2. If your lawn or garden has large areas which seem to differ in fertility, take one sample from each area. For example, you may want to sample the front lawn separately from the back lawn (see diagram).
3. Do not include soil from a lawn and a garden in the same sample.
4. Avoid (or sample separately) trouble spots or areas such as borders, low spots, areas near trees or buildings, etc.

## Submitting Samples

1. Fill out the information on the front of this form and enclose it with the soil sample in a sturdy mailing carton. Send to:

**Soil Testing Laboratory**  
**Box 2207A, Ag Hall 07**  
**South Dakota State University**  
**Brookings, SD 57007-1096**

The samples can also be delivered in person to Agricultural Hall (north door), Room 07, SDSU, Brookings, SD.

2. Include payment along with state and city sales tax. Alternatively a bill can be sent with the test results. **Allow 5-10 days for processing and return of results.**