



Soil Testing Procedure

Q - Why should I have the soil tested for a fertilizer recommendation?

A - The only way to determine the PH, phosphorus and potassium levels are with a routine soil test. The recommendations for nitrogen is based on reasonable yield goals.

Q - How much soil do I need?

A - The sample which represents each field should be about a pint.
(A quart size Ziploc bag filled about half full works well.)

Q - How deep should I go to get a sample?

A - For an established field such as brome, alfalfa or a no-till field, the sample should be representative of the top four inches (0-4 inches). Fields that will be worked up should be representative of the top six inches (0-6 inches).

Q - How do I get a representative sample?

A - Collect ten to fifteen samples from each field. Get the samples from all areas of the field, avoiding the edges, waste spots and other areas that don't represent the field. Collect a small amount of the top four to six inches and place in a bucket. When all the samples from a field have been collected, break and mix it all together. Collect your 2 cup sample from this mixture.

Q - How many samples do I need?

A - You should test each field separately. Especially those that have been or will be fertilized or cropped differently.

Q - What is the cost?

A - Payment is due when samples are brought to the Extension Office. We will then send samples to the KSU Soil Lab in Manhattan. Price varies on test(s) requested and postage.

Q - How long does it take?

A - From the time a sample is sent to KSU from our office, it will be seven to ten days (depending on the season) before the analysis is received. The analysis will be reviewed and recommendations will then be sent.