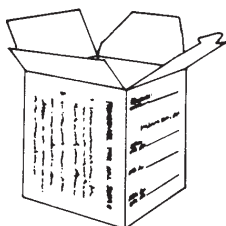


Soil Testing for the Homeowner

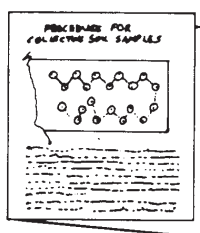
Four steps for taking a soil sample

1

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

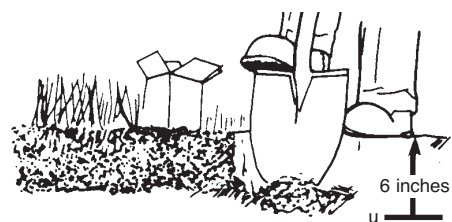


Soil Sample Boxes



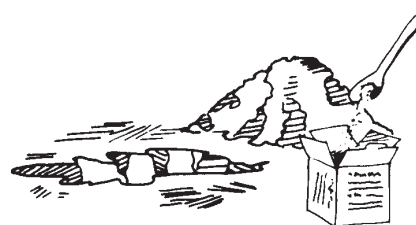
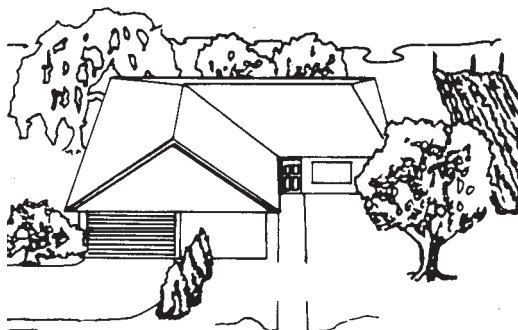
Information Sheets

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.



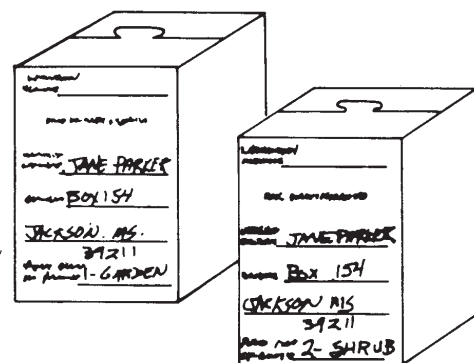
2

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



3

To take a soil sample: Take a small amount of soil from the top 4 to 6 inches and place it in a bucket. Repeat this process 15 to 20 times from different places in the area or plot you are sampling. Use a separate sample box for each



4

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



MISSISSIPPI STATE
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EXTENSION SERVICE

Three steps for sending soil samples to the lab

1 Fill out the Information Sheet

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

County in which you live Send payment plus top sheet to this address Number of samples x \$6 charge

Soil Testing Laboratory, Mississippi State University

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
 Box 9610
 Mississippi State, MS 39762

TOTAL CHARGES
 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 from the list below for the crops you wish to grow, and place the number here.

<p>CROP CODE NUMBERS. Regular tests on all samples include pH, Lime requirement, Phosphorus, Potassium, Calcium, Magnesium, Sodium, and Zinc.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
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2 Make check or money order (no cash please) payable to Soil Testing Laboratory (\$6 per sample box). Mail the top two sheets and your soil samples to:

Soil Testing Laboratory
 Box 9610
 Mississippi State, MS 39762

3 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 Publication 1091 *Garden Tabloid* and Publication 1322 *Establish and Manage Your Home Lawn*.



By **Dr. Keith Crouse**, Associate Extension Professor, Plant and Soil Sciences.

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Information Sheet 1294

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