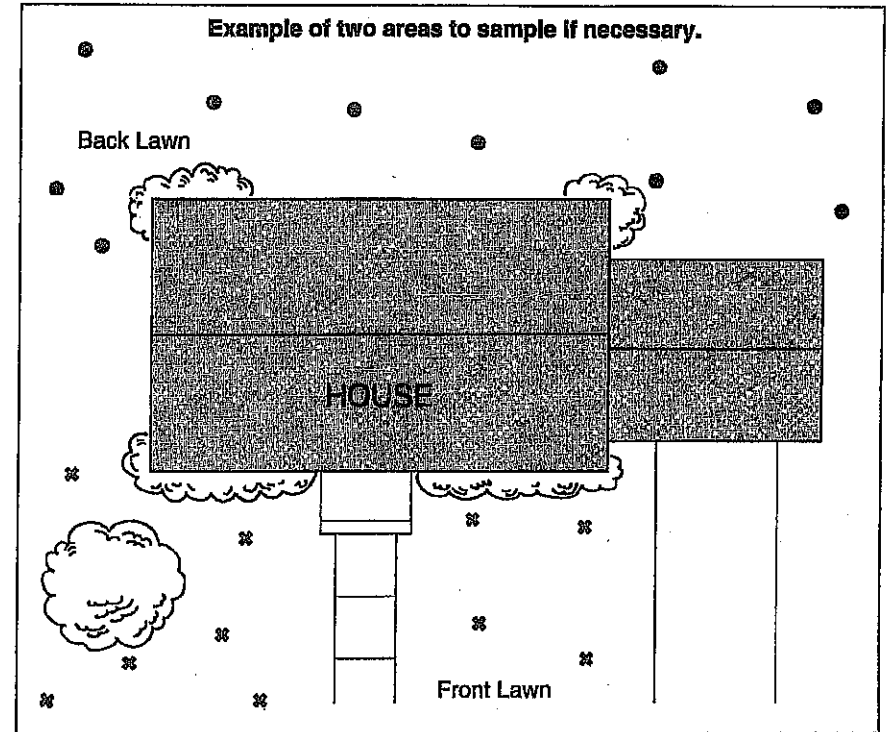
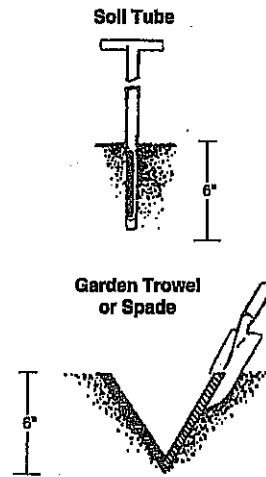


How to take a Soil Sample

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.