KENTON COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

10990 Marshall Road
Covington, KY 41015

450 Kenton Lands Road
Erlanger, KY 41018

Phone: 859-356-3155
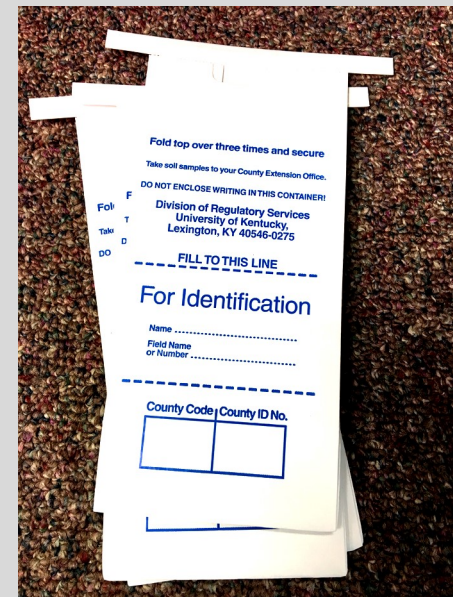
Website:
www.kenton.ca.uky.edu

University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Soil samples can be dropped off at 10990 Marshall Road, Covington, KY Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or 450 Kenton Lands Road, Erlanger, KY Monday through Thursday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Kenton Lands location closed from noon to 1:00 for lunch). We also have a night drop box at our Marshall Road location.

When you bring in your soil sample, we will collect general information about your sample and site, and then send it to UK's soil lab for analysis. When results are returned to us, our Agriculture or Horticulture Agent will send these to you along with their recommendations. This process usually takes two to three weeks, possibly longer during periods of heavy demand.

Basics soil testing through the University of Kentucky is free for Kenton County residents. There is no charge for soil testing of lawns, gardens, landscapes or farms. There is an extra charge for wildlife food plot samples, for residents of other counties, or for specialized analyses.

Soil Testing

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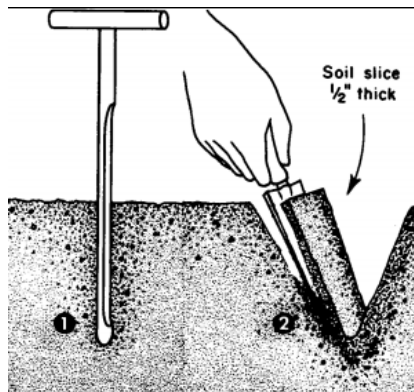**Erlanger, KY 41018**
859-356-3155

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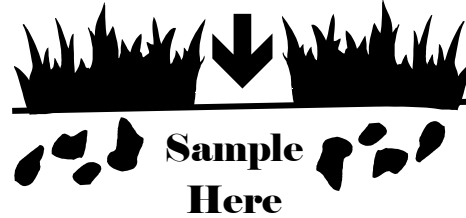
WHY TEST YOUR SOIL?

It is possible to have different soils and different amounts of plant-available nutrients even in the same yard or garden. Soil testing is the best way to identify these differences and determine the right kinds and amounts of fertilizers or amendments to add for productive lawns, gardens and landscapes.

Soil test results are only as good as the sample provided. A truly representative soil sample will give the best results. We suggest the following when collecting and preparing your sample:

Soil slice ½" thick

1. **Time of Year**: Sampling is best completed in the fall or spring– although samples can be sent in at any time.

2. **Tools for collection:** Use only clean tools and containers to collect and transport your sample. This helps avoid contamination. Never use tools or containers that have been used for fertilizer or lime. Samples can be collected by using a spade, trowel, or auger. We have soil augers you can check out for up to 3 days at a time.

Thatch or Mulch

Sample Here

3. **Sample collection**: Sample when the soil is on the drier side, or at least several days after the last rain; do not sample when ground is soggy. Wait at least six to eight weeks after lime or fertilizer application.

- With a trowel or shovel, clear ground of grass, thatch or mulch before digging your sample.

- The total sample should contain at least 2 cups of soil, but should be taken from multiple collection points throughout the area of concern. Collection needs depend on types of plants being grown:

   Lawns: 8 to 10 selection sites, 4 to 6" deep.

   Garden: 8 to 10 selection sites, 6" deep.

   Ornamentals, mixed fruit trees, shrubs: Five to ten selection sites, 6" deep. More sites are needed for larger areas.

4. **Sample preparation:** Put all the samples from your specific area into a plastic bucket or other non-reactive container. Let the soil dry thoroughly in the bucket.

- Once it is dry, break up lumps or clods, remove stones, roots and other debris. Mix all samples together well. Then crumble the soil until there are no clumps larger than peas.

5. **Sample Labeling**: Place 2 cups of prepared soil in a zip-type plastic bag or spill-proof container. You may also use one of our sample bags. Label samples with your name and identify site location, i.e., front lawn, south raised bed, etc. to help us identify the collection site.

6. **Bring the prepared and labeled soil to our office.**

Wooded Area   Vegetable Garden

Low-lying Area   Lawn