



# MAINE SOIL TESTING SERVICE

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

## FIELD AND SOIL SAMPLE INFORMATION FORM

**SEND SAMPLES TO**

July 2023

*Maine Soil Testing Service  
5722 Deering Hall  
Orono, Maine 04469-5722*

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Before Sampling, Read Sampling Instructions on back of sheet 3.
2. **PLEASE CHOOSE STANDARD TEST OR COMPREHENSIVE TEST FOR EACH SAMPLE** (see price list for specifications).
3. Standard test is \$20 per sample. Comprehensive test is \$25 per sample. See price list on back page for additional tests and discounts.
4. **A SOIL BIOLOGY TEST** (see additional check off list) can be added to either Standard or Comprehensive Soil Test (see price list for specifications).
5. **A HIGH TUNNEL TEST** (see check off list) for \$25 includes recommendations to support higher yields (see price list for specifications).
6. Select crop code(s) for recommendations from front of page 2. If no match is found, write in crop name.
7. Please completely fill this form (up to 10 samples) before using another form.
8. After completing this form **SEND TOP SHEET ONLY** with samples and payment to the laboratory.
4. Ship sample containers in cardboard box if possible. Attach check or money order to this form.
9. **PLEASE ALLOW 2 WEEKS FOR RETURN OF TEST RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**



**MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:**  
*Maine Soil Testing Service*  
**PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH**  
**AMOUNT ENCLOSED**



\$ \_\_\_\_\_

### EMAIL REPORT OPTION:

**A paper copy will automatically be sent. If you would also like us to e-mail your report (PDF format), please clearly print your e-mail address**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ DATE SAMPLES TAKEN \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY WHERE FIELD(S) ARE LOCATED \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SELECT: STD. TEST (S) OR COMP. TEST (C)	SAMPLE NAME	NO. ACRES OR SQ. FT. (PLEASE SPECIFY)	RECOMMENDATION CROP CODE(S) (FRONT SHEET 3)	FORAGE CROPS: LIST REALISTIC YIELD GOAL	WILL POTATOES BE GROWN HERE IN THE NEXT 3 YRS.?		SPECIAL pH MANAGEMENT LEVEL: (see back of sheet 3) 2) Current pH (no lime) 3) 5.2 4) 5.5 5) 6.0 6) 6.5 7) 7.0	LIST PREVIOUS CROP: IF LEGUME, LIST PERCENT STAND	CHECK ALTERNATIVE OR ADDITIONAL TESTS REQUESTED (PRICES ON BACK OF SHEET 3)						
					NO	YES			BASIC TUNNEL	LONG-TERM TUNNEL	SOIL BIOLOGY	EXCH. SODIUM	SOLUBLE SALTS	PARTICLE SIZE	
S / C															
S / C															
S / C															
S / C															
S / C															
S / C															
S / C															
S / C															
S / C															
S / C															

WRITE ANY COMMENTS, PROBLEMS, OR REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS (NOT LISTED ABOVE) ON THE BACK OF THIS SHEET

IF YOU WOULD LIKE **ADDITIONAL SAMPLE BOXES OR FORMS**, PLEASE INDICATE HOW MANY OF EACH: \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIALITY**  
CHECK HERE IF YOU DO NOT WANT COPY OF  
YOUR REPORT TO GO TO YOUR COUNTY  
EXTENSION OR FSA OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_



LOCATE CROP(S) BELOW FOR WHICH YOU WANT A RECOMMENDATION. WRITE CODE NUMBER(S) – “3 DIGITS” – IN COLUMN ON SHEET 1.

<b>AGRONOMIC CROPS</b>
CODE NO.
101 Alfalfa (Over 50% stand) – Established
151 Alfalfa/Grass – new seeding
102 Clover (Over 50% stand) – Established
152 Clover/Grass – new seeding
104 Grass hay or haylage – 1 crop – Established
105 Grass hay or haylage – 2 crops – Established
154 Grass only (no Legumes) – new seeding
106 Pasture – Topdress
170 Conservation seeding or Wildlife food plot
125 Hops (commercial) – New or Established
130 Industrial Hemp (Licensed Commercial)
155 Oats only (without forage seeding) or oats underseeded with clover, plowed down next spring
156 Barley only (without forage seeding)
157 Spring Wheat only (without forage seeding)
167 Winter Wheat only (without forage seeding)
158 Winter Rye only (without forage seeding)
159 Buckwheat
160 Soybean/Lupin
161 Sudangrass or Sorghum-Sudan hybrids
163 Millet
164 Corn silage
166 Corn grain
165 Sunflower
175 Brassica Forage (rape turnip, typhon)
177 Canola

<b>TURF</b>
CODE NO.
201 Lawn, Playground – Existing
202 Baseball field, Golf Fairway – Existing
203 Football, Field Hockey, Soccer – Existing
205 Golf green or tee – Existing
211 All Turf – new seeding

<b>COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES (MORE THAN ONE ACRE)</b>
CODE NO.
302 Bean – Dry or Snap
304 Beets
305 Broccoli or Cauliflower (transplants only)
335 Broccoli (direct seeded only)
336 Cauliflower (direct seeded only)
306 Brussell Sprout, Cabbage
308 Carrot, Parsnip
310 All Vines – Cucumber, Gourd, Muskmelon, Pumpkin, Squash, Watermelon
311 Niteshades – Eggplant, Pepper, Tomato
313 Lettuce      324 Sweet Corn
315 Alliums      328 Roadside Stand (mix)
317 Pea            329 Asparagus (to be planted)
322 Spinach      330 Asparagus (established bed)
321 Radish, Rutabaga, Turnip

<b>NON-ORGANIC GARDENS (LESS THAN 1 ACRE)</b>	CHEMICAL FERTILIZER
CODE NO.	
391 Home garden vegetables, strawberry, and raspberry	
393 Home tree fruit	

<b>ORGANIC GARDENS (COMMERCIAL &amp; HOME)</b>	NON-CHEMICAL FERTILIZER
CODE NO.	
392 All vegetables, strawberry, raspberry, and flowers	

<b>COMMERCIAL FRUITS (MORE THAN ONE ACRE)</b>
CODE NO.
401 Apple (new plantings only)
404 Raspberry / Grape – Established bed
405 Raspberry / Grape – To be planted
406 Strawberry – Established bed
407 Strawberry – To be planted
408 Stone fruit
409 Highbush Blueberry – To be planted
410 Highbush Blueberry – Established bed
411 Cranberry – To be planted
412 Cranberry – Established bog

<b>FORESTRY</b>
CODE NO.
601 Forestry – General
602 Forestry – Christmas Trees
603 Forestry – Nursery

<b>COMMERCIAL POTATOES</b>
<b>PROCESSING AND SEED POTATOES</b>
CODE NO.
<b>After heavy red clover or alfalfa green manure</b>
501 Early and low-nitrogen varieties
504 Mid-season varieties (includes Shepody)
502 Russet Burbank
503 Late-season varieties
<b>After underseeded grains, non-legume green manures, broccoli, or old sod</b>
506 Early and low-nitrogen varieties
509 Mid-season varieties (includes Shepody)
507 Russet Burbank
508 Late-season varieties
<b>After grains (no underseeding), or replanted potatoes</b>
511 Early and low-nitrogen varieties
514 Mid-season varieties (includes Shepody)
512 Russet Burbank
513 Late-season varieties
<b>TABLE STOCK POTATOES</b>
CODE NO.
<b>After heavy red clover or alfalfa green manure</b>
516 Early and low-nitrogen varieties
519 Mid-season varieties
517 Russet Burbank, Russet Norkotah, Superior
518 Late-season varieties
<b>After underseeded grains, non-legume green manures, broccoli, or old sod</b>
526 Early and low-nitrogen varieties
520 Mid-season varieties
527 Russet Burbank, Russet Norkotah, Superior
528 Late-season varieties
<b>After grains (no underseeding), or replanted potatoes</b>
529 Early and low-nitrogen varieties
521 Mid-season varieties
530 Russet Burbank, Russet Norkotah, Superior
531 Late-season varieties

<b>ORNAMENTALS (CHEMICAL FERTILIZER ONLY)</b>
CODE NO.
701 Annuals: Flower beds, Cut Flowers
702 Roses and other perennials
703 Wildflowers
704 Azalea, rhododendron, and other acid-loving plants
705 Other shrubs
706 Shade Trees (Maple, etc.)
707 Evergreens (Pine, Spruce)

# INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO TAKE A SOIL SAMPLE:

Soil is quite variable over a surprisingly small area. The following steps will help you get a soil sample that truly represents the area you want tested.

## 1 FORMS & CONTAINERS

Obtain sample information forms and containers from your County Extension office. This form should be filled out as completely as possible.

Additional forms can be downloaded and printed from our website:  
[umaine.edu/soiltestinglab](http://umaine.edu/soiltestinglab)

Additional forms and containers can also be ordered on our website.

## 2 EQUIPMENT

A soil sample can be taken with a probe, spade, garden trowel, or soil auger.

## 3 DEPTH

Areas to be planted to row crops or seeded down should be sampled to plow depth (or about 8 inches.) Areas in sod, such as lawns or hayfields, should be sampled to a 3-or 4-inch depth. Areas under tree crops should be sampled to a 12-inch depth.

## 4 AREAS OF SAMPLING

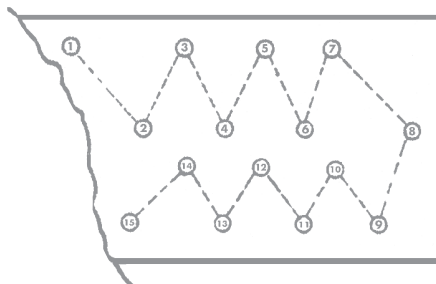
Low spots, trouble spots, and areas with obvious differences in soil type should be treated as separate sampling areas. Also, areas that have been treated differently in the past should be sampled separately. In areas where past treatments and soil types are uniform, limit the sampling area to 8 acres in size. Make a permanent field sampling map for your reference when test results are returned.

EXAMPLE 50 ACRE AREA



## 5 TAKE REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE

Take soil from approximately 15 different spots in the sample area. Place this soil in a clean plastic bucket and mix thoroughly.



## 6 HOW MUCH IS NEEDED?

Fill a pint container from this bucket of well-mixed soil. Maine Soil Testing Service sample boxes are preferred. Your local Cooperative Extension office has soil sample boxes. Boxes can also be sent upon request.

## 7 LABEL THE CONTAINERS

The container from each sample area should be identified on the side with the identification of the sample area and your last name. **DO NOT** put identification on top, because covers are thrown away. Be sure identifying names agree with your map of sample areas, so when test results are returned there will be no question of where the samples were taken. Be sure the names on containers agree with the names on the information forms.

For a full listing of all available analytical services prices and discounts, consult our online price list at [umaine.edu/soiltestinglab](http://umaine.edu/soiltestinglab) or contact the nearest office of Cooperative Extension or call 207.581.2945 or 207.581.2917.

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## pH MANAGEMENT LEVELS

The typical pH management levels that are assumed to be optimum for field crops and for gardens and grounds in Maine are as follows:

- grass hay, pasture, cons. seeding – 6.0
- all other general agronomic crops – 6.5
- commercial potatoes & potato rotation crops – 6.0
- commercial beans and sweet corn – 6.0
- all other commercial vegetables – 6.5
- home gardens and organic crops – 6.5
- blueberries, other acid-loving plants – below 5.2
- all other commercial fruit – 6.0
- all turf – 6.0
- all forestry – 6.0
- shrubs & deciduous shade trees – 6.0
- evergreen shade trees – 5.5
- all other ornamentals – 6.5

These are the “default” pH management levels. If for some reason you wish to manage your pH at some other level, please choose one of the alternative pH levels listed on page 1.

AVAILABLE ANALYTICAL SERVICES	FEE * (PER SAMPLE)
<b>STANDARD TEST:</b> soil pH; Organic matter; P, K, Mg, Ca, S, B, Cu, Fe, Mn, Zn; Na (on request); Screen for elevated Cd, Cr, Ni, Pb. Lime and fertilizer recommendations.	\$20.00
<b>COMPREHENSIVE TEST:</b> Standard soil test (above) plus available nitrogen (nitrate plus ammonium). <b>This test is most appropriate for samples taken during the growing season, from late May to early September.</b>	\$25.00
<b>WINTER DISCOUNT PERIOD:</b> For soil samples received at the lab between January 1 and March 1 for a Standard Test. <b>Sample your soil prior to freeze-up, air dry, send in after January 1.</b>	\$15.00
<b>VOLUME DISCOUNT:</b> 30 or more samples in 1 delivery for a Standard Soil Test. <b>Samples must be shipped or delivered in MSTs sample boxes.</b>	\$15.00
<b>SOIL BIOLOGY/SOIL HEALTH:</b> Measures the microbial activity and Biological Health of your soil. Includes guidelines for organic matter management.  Added on to a Standard or Comprehensive Test	\$12.00
Extra charge for soluble salts.	\$7.00
<b>PARTICLE SIZE ANALYSIS:</b> measured sand, silt, clay content and texture classification.	\$24.00
<b>BASIC HIGH TUNNEL PACKAGE</b> (for covered, in-ground plant production): Standard test; soluble salts; nitrate. Recommendations to support higher yields. <b>Please specify on top sheet.</b>	\$25.00
<b>LONG-TERM/COMBINED HIGH TUNNEL PACKAGE</b> (for older, unflushed or heavily amended houses): Basic High Tunnel Test PLUS Saturated Media Extract for all major and micronutrients. Two-page report with both season-long nutrient availability and short-term nutrient intensity. <b>Please specify on top sheet.</b>	\$30.00
<b>LEAD SCAN ONLY:</b> Screening for above – normal lead content. Includes measured total lead content of contaminated soil, with suggested guidelines.	\$12.00

\* PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE