

# LAWN AND GARDEN SOIL SAMPLE INFORMATION- NC SOIL ONLY



NCDA&CS Agronomic Division Soil Testing Section

Mailing Address: 1040 Mail Service Ctr. Raleigh, NC 27699-1040

Physical Address (UPS/FedEx): 4300 Reedy Creek Rd. Raleigh, NC 27607

Phone: (919) 733-2655

Website: [www.ncagr.gov/agronomi](http://www.ncagr.gov/agronomi)

**ROUTINE / PREDICTIVE SAMPLES**

April ~ Thanksgiving: NO FEE  
 December – March: \$4 / sample  
 Check online for exact dates

**For laboratory results, go to [www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/pals](http://www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/pals)**

SAMPLE INFORMATION	PAYMENT	CLIENT INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)		OTHER RECIPIENT			
SAMPLE DATE	FEE TOTAL _____	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME		
NC COUNTY (WHERE COLLECTED)*	<i>Check preferred- payable to NCDA&amp;CS</i>	ADDRESS		ADDRESS			
	<b><u>Please NO CASH</u></b>						
NUMBER OF SAMPLES	<i>Reminders</i> Use NCDA&CS sample boxes only. <u>Fill box with soil to red line.</u> Bags of any type not accepted.	CITY	STATE	ZIP	CITY	STATE	ZIP
	<i>Acquire boxes at our lab or NC Cooperative Extension office.</i>	E-MAIL ADDRESS ( <b><u>needed for report notification</u></b> )		E-MAIL ADDRESS			
		PHONE (best contact number)	PALS # _____ (if known)	PHONE	PALS # _____ (if known)		

**\*By submitting this form to the NCDA&CS Agronomic Division, I attest that the accompanying samples were collected in North Carolina.**

LAB NUMBER (LEAVE BLANK - LAB USE ONLY)	YOUR SAMPLE IDENTIFICATION (maximum of 5 characters- same as box)	LIME APPLIED WITHIN PAST 12 MONTHS			LAWN / GARDEN PLANTING CODE (Please see page 2)	Quick Tips
		lb / 1000 sq ft	Month	Year		
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please use only the planting codes on page 2.</li> <li>A bag of lime weighs 40 lb. If lime was applied over one year ago, leave the lime information blank.</li> <li><b><u>Please make sure your email address is correct and legible. You will be notified when the report is complete by email.</u></b></li> </ul>

*Thank you for using agronomic services to manage nutrients and safeguard environmental quality. -- Steve Troxler, Commissioner of Agriculture*

## A Guide to Soil Sampling -- A Soil Test is Only as Good as the Soil Sample Taken!

- **What to use to collect the sample?** A garden spade or trowel can be used. Do not use tools that are galvanized since zinc levels will be affected. Use a clean plastic bucket to collect soil.
- **When and where to sample?** Collect samples prior to fertilization of an existing established planting or prior to a new planting. Early spring and late summer are ideal times for homeowners. If soil is too wet to mix well, it is too wet to sample! Sample only where you will fertilize or lime differently from other areas. Usually for a lawn, one separate sample from the front yard and back yard is sufficient. For a vegetable garden, one sample is sufficient. For flower beds or shrubs, you may want to sample each bed separately.
- **How to collect soil?** Representation is important!! A **4-inch depth** is recommended for lawns and undisturbed areas (planted flower beds). For areas tilled such as a vegetable garden, a **6-inch depth** is desired. **For one sample**, take a “slice” of soil to the appropriate depth from 10 to 12 different locations in the area you are sampling and place in the bucket. **After collecting soil from these locations, mix well and fill the box to the red fill line.** If there is too little soil, the analysis cannot be completed. **Use only the NCDA&CS soil sample box. Please do not enclose soil in plastic bags in the box and do not tape the box.** Boxes can be acquired at the Agronomic Division office in Raleigh or any NC Cooperative Extension office. Use only a **pencil or waterproof markers** on the box. Information on box is most easily written prior to folding the box.

### Soil Box, Sample Information Form and Shipping Guide

- **Print all information clearly --** *If we cannot read it, you will not receive the report or the desired information. **A current email address is critical since you will be notified when your report is ready by email.** Results are also available at [www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/pals](http://www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/pals) by searching on your name.*
- **Sample ID** -- use letters and / or numbers (max = 5) that help remind you where the sample came from. Make sure information on the box matches that on the form.
- **Lime Applied Within Past 12 Months** – if applied within the past 12 months of this sample, please provide the amount in lb per 1000 sq ft (1000 sq ft example = 10 ft width x 100 ft length). One bag of lime weighs 40 lb.
- **Home / Lawn Planting Code** – please use a numerical code from the list below. We do not have codes for all types of landscape plants, but our codes and report information will generally provide good fertility recommendations.
- After closing the filled soil boxes, fold the completed information form and tuck it under the flaps of the first box.
- Package soil sample boxes tightly within a cardboard shipping container to lessen the potential of damage during shipping.

LAB NUMBER (LEAVE BLANK)	SAMPLE IDENTIFICATION	LIME APPLIED WITHIN PAST 12 MONTHS			LAWN / GARDEN PLANTING CODE
		lb / 1000 sq ft	Mo	Year	
	FRONT	40	5	2016	026
	BACK				026
	VEG				024
	FLBED				029
	BLUE				032

### Lawn and Garden Planting Codes

- |                      |                                |  |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 020 Azalea / Camelia | 025 Mtn. Laurel / Rhododendron | 030 Berries / Fruits / Nuts (except blueberries) |
| 022 Lawn, Centipede  | 026 Lawn (not centipede)       | 031 Landscape Tree (deciduous and evergreen)     |
| 023 Flower Garden    | 028 Rose                       | 032 Blueberries                                  |
| 024 Vegetable Garden | 029 Shrubs                     |  |