

Cornell University Cooperative Extension Livingston County

158 Main Street
Mt. Morris, NY 14510-1595
t. 585.658.3250
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SOIL TESTING

pH Testing: pH testing for soil acidity (for lime needs) are provided at no charge at the CCE Livingston County office in Mt Morris. This service is available for garden and farm field determination. This is a simple reagent test which gives a good approximation of pH reading. pH readings are also included in the standard nutrient analysis lab test. pH test kits are available for purchase for \$10 at the CCE office.



Complete Nutrient Analysis: Soil testing services once provided by the Cornell Nutrient Analysis Lab are now provided by a commercial laboratory, Agro One at the Dairy One lab in Ithaca. Key input regarding analytical methods and quality control will be provided by Cornell. In addition, Cornell nutrient management guidelines will be provided by Cornell University through Agro One. This analysis is practical for farm and garden plant growing.

Sample kits are available with input forms at the CCE office. Agro One services are listed in this site for your access. The various submittal forms are listed, including home garden. It may be more convenient for you to access information and materials online - rather than to come to the CCE office. Even if you bring your soil sample to the CCE office, it still may be useful to download the appropriate submittal form(s), so you know what information is needed before you (or someone else) arrives. Note there are forms for multiple sample submittal - which can save a lot of inputting.

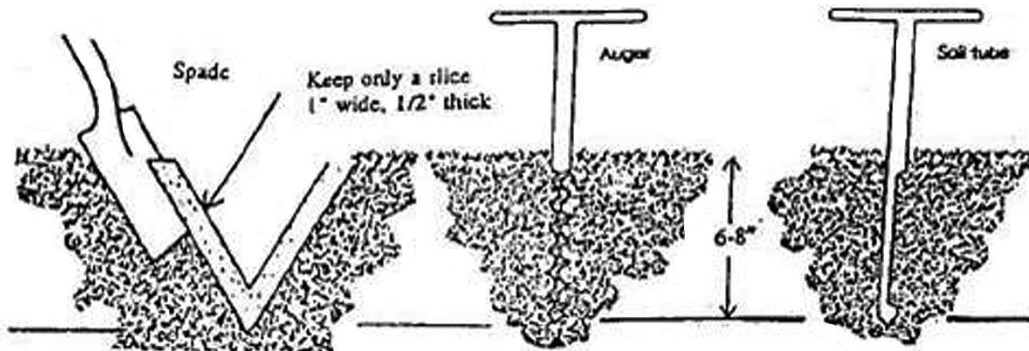
Samples can be left at the CCE office in Mt Morris for pickup by Dairy One-Agro One.

ONLY ADEQUATELY COMPLETED INPUT SHEETS WILL RESULT IN A NUTRIENT APPLICATION

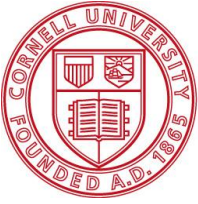
RECOMMENDATION. Home garden type plantings generally do not require a soil type indicated. Farm crops do. Don't send your spouse without that information. An analysis will be given in any case, but a recommendation is usually the reason for testing.

Feel free to call our office at 585-658-3250 for more information. We will help you with questions and finding soil types when needed (if you do not already know).

How to Obtain a Soil Sample? The results of soil tests for nutrients and pH are valuable only if the soil sample is REPRESENTATIVE of the soil layers from which the plants draw their nutrients. It is essential to obtain uniform slices or cores of soil from the top to the proper depth. A spade, an auger, or a special soil sampling tube can be used. (see figure)



Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County provides equal employment and program opportunities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by calling CCE of Livingston County no later than one week before the beginning of any event to make arrangements. Requests received after this date will be met when possible.



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To properly obtain a soil sample for testing, select 8 to 10 spots in the garden or the lawn; 3 per acre for farm crops (sub samples). Follow these steps:

- Scrape away any debris, mulch, and ½ to 1” of the surface layer.
- Take a slice (core) of soil all the way down to the tillage depth. About 6 inches for gardens; plow or tillage depth for farm fields.
- Gather and mix these soil sub samples together in a plastic pail and spread the mixed soil evenly on a clean surface to AIR DRY.
- Mix the dried soil again and remove any remaining debris or stones. Avoid extensive handling with bare hands.
- Save about ONE PINT of the dried soil in a clean, not metal or galvanized, container (like a plastic bag or jar).
- Label the container (not the lid) with your name and the area or field where you took the sample. Bring it to the CCE office OR package in the Agro One container for shipping.

For Agro One Contacts, Soil Names, Crop Codes, Sampling, Submittal Forms, Plant Tissue Analysis, Shipping and Handling, Sample Pick-up Points, Agro One Cornell Links, Agro One Poster, Ordering Supplies, and Links – visit the Dairy One website: <http://www.dairyone.com/AgroOne/default.htm>.

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