HOLMES LABORATORY, INC.
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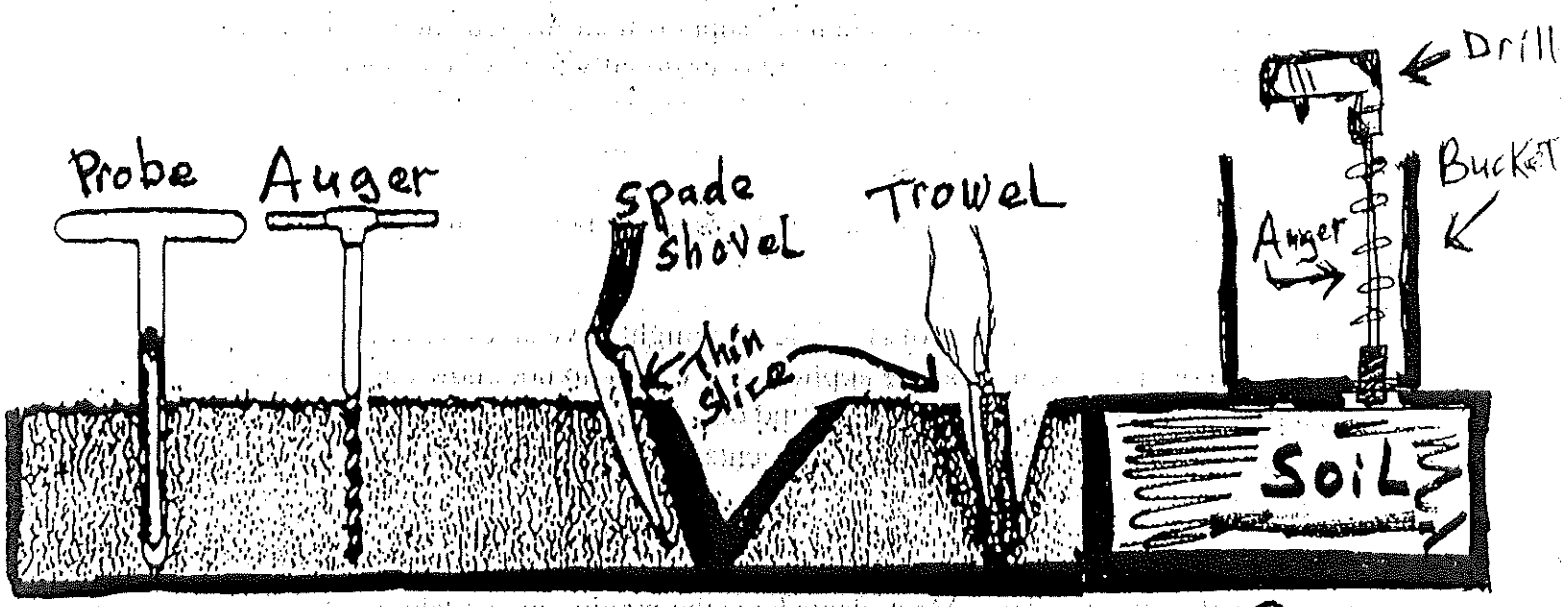
HOW TO COLLECT AND SUBMIT SAMPLES FOR SOIL FERTILITY

A soil test takes the guesswork out of lime and fertilizer applications. It is an excellent measure of soil fertility. Soil testing is a very inexpensive way of maintaining good plant health. The report supplies the necessary information for environmental appropriate recommendations.

The soil sample must be representative of your lawn or garden area, pasture, field crops, forages. etc. Here are some tips on improving the accuracy of your soil tests:

- Samples can be taken with a soil probe, pipe, auger, spade, or hand trowel. (See diagram below)
- Remove the top debris, residue, or turf thatch from the soil.
- Sample gardens, trees, shrubs, flowerbeds, hay fields, forages, and field crops 6-8 inches deep. Sample 3-4 inches deep for lawn and grass pasture fields.
- Randomly zigzag over the area collecting 10-15 cores or slices in a clean plastic bucket.
- Do not include cores from any unusual locations such as manure areas, old fence rows, fertilizer or lime spill areas, etc.
- Each core or slice should be taken at the same depth and volume at each site.
- Break up clumps and thoroughly mix the composite sample.
- Place 3 measuring cups of soil in a plastic quart bag.
- The soil can be sent either wet or dry.
- Be sure to label the bag with a sample description.
- Complete the Soil Information Sheet including the past crop, crop to be grown, and the yield goal.
- Return the soil sample(s) along with the Soil Information Sheet and payment to Holmes Laboratory in a cardboard box or mailing envelope.



More Info. →

(Submit 3 cups per sample, wet or dry)

TEST DESIRED

COST

A. STANDARD SOIL TEST PACKAGE ..... $ 30.00

Includes: Organic Matter, pH, Buffer pH (Lime Test Index), Available Phosphorus and Exchangeable Potassium, Calcium, Magnesium, Sodium, Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC), and Percent Base Saturations of Potassium, Magnesium, Calcium and Sodium. Plus, recommendations for Nitrogen, Phosphate, Potash, Magnesium, and Lime.

(For recommendations, please include information on past crop and crop to be grown)

OPTIONAL TESTING (Can only be added to above test package)

M. Micronutrient Test ..... $ 30.00
Includes: Iron, Manganese, Zinc, and Copper

S. Sulfate Sulfur ..... $ 30.00

E. Soluble Salts (EC) ..... $ 30.00

B. Boron ..... $ 30.00

N. Nitrate-Nitrogen ..... $ 30.00

D. DIAGNOSTIC SOIL NUTRIENT TEST ..... $ 86.00
Includes: The Standard Test (A) plus all the options listed above.

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P. Particle Size (Soil Texture, % Sand, Silt, Clay) $ 60.00

WHY TEST YOUR SOIL FOR GARDENS, LAWNS, PRODUCE, PASTURES, FIELD CROPS, ETC.? (Need 3 cups)

Soil is defined as a complex medium of organic and inorganic materials that provides water and nutrients to the root system of plants to support their growth and development. This is one of the most important functions of soil, but occasionally it may be low in one or more nutrients needed by plants. This deficiency could be expressed by a different coloration of plants, a weak or thin density, or a rapid decline in quality during periods of heat or moisture stress. The only way to determine if important nutrients are low or lacking is to conduct a soil test. It is very important to submit a soil sample for analysis before you apply any lime or fertilizer.

Another situation to be aware of is a field that might have an excess of nutrients due to over-fertilization or an abundant manure application. If you do not know the past history, or have had a recent soil test, now is the time to find out. Efficient growers will not guess how much lime or fertilizer to apply. To be environmentally conservative they will measure before they manage or test before they guess.

Knowing the soil pH and the amount of calcium and magnesium is critical to the health and mineral uptake into the plant. Most plants have the maximum availability absorption into the root system and up into the plant at a pH of 6.5 to 7.0. Below this pH the minerals are not water soluble and will have limited and decreased availability.