Don't Guess...Soil Test!

Michigan State University Soil Nutrient Testing Service

Offered by participating garden centers in cooperation with MSU Extension Oakland County, the Michigan Water Stewardship Program & Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority

Saturday, April 3 through Sunday, April 25, 2010

Why: A soil test is the first step in determining how much and what type of fertilizer is needed for the plants you are trying to grow. Since plants take up nutrients from the soil, nutrients need to be replenished from time to time. The only way to identify the particular nutrients needed is to test your soil.

For additional information about year-round soil testing, contact MSU Extension-Oakland County at 248-858-0887.

Over-application of fertilizers can pollute water resources, ruin plants and waste money.

Cost: $18.00 soil testing per sample includes: pH, lime requirement, phosphorus (P), potassium (K), calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg) plus organic matter analysis. This price also includes delivery of your soil sample from the drop-off locations (listed on reverse) to the soil test lab at Michigan State University. Your personalized recommendations will be sent directly to you.

How: Directions for collecting a soil sample and where to purchase and take your soil samples in Oakland County are listed on reverse. For all metro area locations: **www.msue.msu.edu/oakland**

Michigan Water Stewardship Program

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Where to Take Your Soil Samples in Oakland County

- **Auburn Oaks Nursery**– 3820 W. Auburn Road, Rochester Hills, 248-852-2310
- **Bordine's Nursery**– 1835 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills, 248-651-9000
- **Bordine's Nursery**– 8600 Dixie Highway, Clarkston, 248-625-9100
- **Eagle Landscaping & Supply**– 20779 Lahser Road, Southfield, 248-356-4342
- **English Gardens**– 4901 Coolidge, Royal Oak, 248-280-9500
- **English Gardens**– 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, 248-851-7506
- **Four Seasons Garden Center**– 14471 Eleven Mile Road, Oak Park, 248-543-4400
- **Garden Central**– 2682 Twelve Mile Road, Berkley, 248-542-6640
- **Glenda's Garden Center**– 40575 Grand River Avenue, Novi, 248-471-4794
- **Goldner Walsh Nursery**– 559 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac, 248-332-6430
- **Hamilton's of Ortonville**– 465 Mill Street, Ortonville, 248-627-3700
- **Jacobsen's Florist / Wojo's Greenhouse**– 545 S. Broadway, Lake Orion, 248-693-8383
- **MSU Extension Oakland County**– 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac, 248-858-0887
- **Mulligan's Landscape & Garden Center**– 8215 Elizabeth Lake Road, White Lake, 248-698-4741
- **Oxford Farm / Garden Center**– 81 N. Washington, Oxford, 248-628-2174
- **Shades of Green**– 496 Avon Road, Rochester Hills, 248-651-1620
- **Telly's Greenhouse & Garden Center**– 3301 John R, Troy, 248-689-8735
- **Uncle Luke's Feed Store**– 6691 Livernois, Troy, 248-879-9147
- **Wojo's Greenhouse**– 2570 Oakwood Road, Ortonville, 248-627-6498

Directions for Collecting a Soil Sample

1. Select the landscape area where you want to test soil (lawn, flower garden, vegetable garden, etc.). For each different landscape area a separate test is required. Use a spade or trowel and a clean plastic pail.
2. Collect 10 random soil samples from the selected area. Remove a slice of soil -- extending to the bottom of the plant roots (3 inches deep for lawn; 7 inches deep for flowers and vegetables.) Do not include roots, thatch, or other plant materials in the sample.
3. Each of these small soil samples should be about 1/2 cup. Mix the 10 samples together in the pail.
4. Place 1 cup of the well-mixed soil into a soil test box. If the sample is really wet, allow the soil to air dry before placing in the soil test box.
5. Do not place more than one soil sample in each box. If necessary, purchase additional boxes. If you have multiple samples, remember to label all samples.
6. Complete the soil testing information form contained in the kit. Secure the information sheet to the soil box by placing it through the top flap of the box.
7. Take soil sample(s) to your local retailer (listed above). Your soil sample will then be transported to the MSU Soil Testing Lab for analysis.