

# MAINE SOIL TESTING SERVICE THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

**SEND SAMPLES TO**

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

FIELD AND SOIL SAMPLE INFORMATION FORM



**MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:**  
**MAINE SOIL TESTING SERVICE**  
**PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH**  
**AMOUNT ENCLOSED**  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_



## 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 \$15 per sample. Comprehensive test is \$22 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. Select crop code(s) for recommendations from front of sheet 3. If no match is found, write crop name in crop code box.
6. Please completely fill this form (up to 10 samples) before using another form.
7. After completing this form **SEND TOP SHEET ONLY** with samples and payment to the laboratory.  
Ship sample containers in cardboard box if possible. Attach check or money order to this form.
8. **PLEASE ALLOW 2 WEEKS FOR RETURN OF TEST RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**

**ELECTRONIC 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															

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

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: \_\_\_\_\_



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>
<p>CODE NO.</p> <p>101 Alfalfa (Over 50% stand) – Established 151 Alfalfa/Grass – new seeding</p> <p>102 Clover (Over 50% stand) – Established 152 Clover/Grass – new seeding</p> <p>104 Grass hay or haylage – 1 crop – Established 105 Grass hay or haylage – 2 crops – Established 154 Grass only (no Legumes) – new seeding</p> <p>106 Pasture – Topdress</p> <p>155 Oats only (without forage seeding) or oats underseeded with clover, plowed down next spring</p> <p>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 170 Conservation seeding or Wildlife food plot 175 Brassica Forage (rape turnip, typhon) 177 Canola</p>

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

<b>COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES</b> (MORE THAN ONE ACRE)
<p>CODE NO.</p> <p>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 Onion      328 Roadside Stand (mix) 317 Pea      329 Asparagus (to be planted) 322 Spinach      330 Asparagus (established bed) 321 Radish, Rutabaga, Turnip</p>

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

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

<b>COMMERCIAL FRUITS</b> (MORE THAN ONE ACRE)
<p>CODE NO.</p> <p>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</p>

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

<b>COMMERCIAL POTATOES</b>
<p><b>PROCESSING AND SEED POTATOES</b></p> <p>CODE NO.</p> <p><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</p> <p><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</p> <p><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</p> <p><b>TABLE STOCK POTATOES</b></p> <p>CODE NO.</p> <p><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</p> <p><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</p> <p><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</p>

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

# 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:

<http://anlab.umesci.maine.edu>

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.

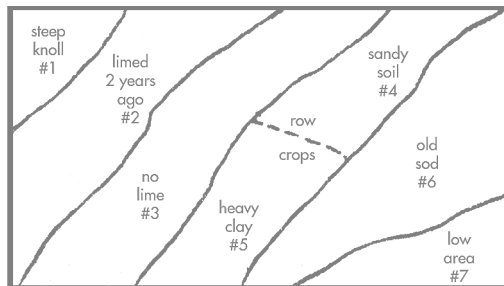
## 3 DEPTH

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

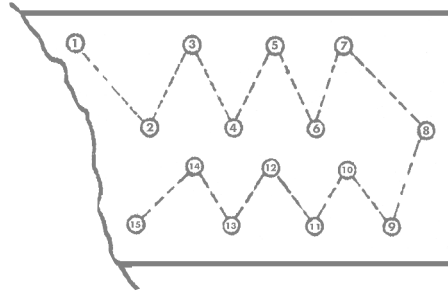
Low spots, trouble spots, and areas with obvious differences in soil type should be treated as separate sampling areas. Also, areas that have been treated differently in the past should be sampled separately. In areas where past treatments and soil types are uniform, limit the sampling area to 8 acres 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 and prices, consult our online price list at <http://anlab.umesci.maine.edu> or contact the nearest office of Cooperative Extension or call 581-2945 or 581-2917.

## 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)
STANDARD TEST: soil pH; Organic matter; P, K, Mg, Ca, S, Cu, Fe, Mn, Zn; Na (on request); Lead scan (gardens & grounds only); B (commercial crops only). Lime and fertilizer recommendations.	\$15.00
COMPREHENSIVE TEST: Standard soil test (above) plus available nitrogen (nitrate plus ammonium). This test is most appropriate for samples taken during the growing season, from late May to early September.	\$22.00
WINTER DISCOUNT PERIOD: For soil samples received at the lab between January 1 and March 1 for a Standard Test.	\$12.00
SOIL BIOLOGY/SOIL HEALTH: Measures the microbial activity and Biological Health of your soil. Includes guidelines for organic matter management.	
Added on to a Standard or Comprehensive Test	\$10.00
Run alone	\$15.00
Extra charge for soluble salts.	\$5.00
PARTICLE SIZE ANALYSIS: measured sand, silt, clay content and texture classification.	\$20.00
BASIC HIGH TUNNEL PACKAGE (for covered, in-ground gardens): Standard test; soluble salts; nitrate. Please specify on top sheet.	\$22.00
LONG-TERM HIGH TUNNEL PACKAGE (for hoops/high tunnels continuously covered 3 years or more): Saturated Media Extract for pH, soluble salts, Nitrate + Ammonium, P, K, Mg, Ca, Al, B, Cu, Fe, Mn, Na, S, Zn; plus organic matter. Lime & organic fertilizer recommendations. Please specify on top sheet.	\$22.00
LEAD SCAN ONLY: Screening for above - normal lead content. Includes measured total lead content of contaminated soil, with suggested guidelines.	\$10.00

\* PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE