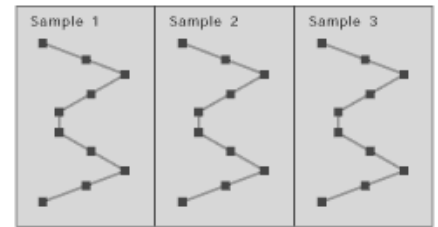


SOIL TESTING

Benefits of soil testing:

- Find out what plant nutrients your soil may be lacking.
- Save money by not purchasing unneeded fertilizer.
- Prevent runoff of excess nutrients.
- Determine where manure can best be utilized.
- Needed for nutrient management planning.



Basics of soil sampling:

- Minimum of 10 cores to make up 1 composite sample.
- One composite sample is needed per 5 acres.
- Use a W- shaped sampling pattern to gather composite samples.
- Thoroughly mix the cores before placing approximately 2 cups in the sample bag.
- Submit multiple samples for each field for better recommendations.
- Number of samples required per acre varies according to previous soil test results.

Available tests:

- Routine soil tests include pH, organic matter, lime requirements, phosphorus, and potassium.
- Many other tests, such as nitrogen and micronutrients, manure analysis, and feed and forage analysis, are also available.

Costs:

- Farm fields - \$7.00
- Flower and vegetable gardens - \$15.00

The Land Conservation Department provides soil sample bags and loans out soil probes. The LCD also assists with weighing of manure spreaders and nutrient management planning. Please contact the LCD for more information.