SOIL TESTING

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Soil Testing.

Several months before seeding, soil should be mixed with soil sterilizer materials need to be incorporated into the topsoil. Some soils have a tendency to become compacted and need to be amended regularly. Soil samples should also be taken for potential crops such as alfalfa

How Often Should Soils Be Tested?

Your sample is due every 2 to 5 years. However, the frequency of testing should be increased for fields where heavy metals are very high or generally recommended. For annual crops, testing annually is recommended.

Sample Collection Procedures:

Fill the sample bag with the mixed soil. Use a clean, sterile sample bag. Mix the soil thoroughly and carefully. Sample bags should not be mixed.

Sample Transportation:

Samples should be completely sealed so each sample is not contaminated. Samples should be mailed to the Soil Testing Laboratory.

For more information, contact the County Extension Office or your local Soil Testing Laboratory.

Newark, DE 19711-1303
Department of Agriculture
College of Agricultural Sciences
Soil Testing Laboratory
Properly use clean sampling tools and equipment.

Sample taken from horizontal area.

A small amount of fertilizer.

Each sample should consist of 15 to 25 cores (X).

1 to 40 acre area.

A good soil sample should represent the area.

Single sample to be represented by a

Small, unusual areas should be

Avoided.

Identified.

Studies where these can be

Avoided.

Unusual areas which are large enough

Avoid wet spots, dead furrows, and

Areas where manure, lime, or fertilizer

has been stockpiled or spilled.

No till and reduced-tillage fields

Surface 2-inch samples are used.

Subsurface 2-inch sampling. Six inches should also be sampled to 6 to 9 inches.

In general, soil samples are taken to

Depths.

Take soil samples to the proper depth.

Copper and zinc microelements such as when testing soils for the purpose of breeding or pasture goals, do not use fertilizers.

A small amount of fertilizer.

Concentration of the sample.

Germination test.

A soil test can only be as accurate as the property and care taken.

Extremely important that soil samples be of soil in the field. Therefore, if fertilizer is applied to represent from 2 to 5 million pounds, sample weighing about 1 pound is used. The sample of run is made. A soil sample is such as those set up by the University of Delaware Soil Testing Laboratory. Conducted by the University of Delaware.