



The Massachusetts Master Gardener Association (MMGA) is pleased to announce that we will offer free pH soil testing at the NSRWA/WaterSmart Gardening Green Expo on Saturday, March 21 at Kennedy's Country Gardens from 10:00am-2:00pm.

One of the most important components of a healthy garden is good soil. pH (a measure of soil acidity or alkalinity) is one measure of soil health. Why test your soil pH? When the pH is too low, plants cannot access nutrients in the soil they need. Different plants have different pH requirements so we list pH requirements by plant. We can provide you with basic information about your soil and can indicate if you need more comprehensive soil testing by a lab such as UMass.

Taking your soil sample:

1 - Identify the area of your property to be tested

The first step in any soil testing process is to identify the area you want tested. Identify just one area per test as different areas, such as flower beds, vegetable gardens, or lawns, may require different pH levels and, therefore, different treatments. You should also sample healthy looking areas separately from sickly looking areas (e.g. different sections of a lawn.)

2 - Dig the sample

Once the area is identified, dig 5-10 holes evenly distributed around the area you are sampling. For gardens, the holes should be about 6" deep; for lawns, 4" deep. Place the soil samples for the selected area in a clean bucket. After you have taken all the samples for an area, go through the soil in the bucket, removing any stones, sticks and other debris. Mix the soil thoroughly then let it dry out in the bucket for a day or pour some soil out on a clean piece of paper, about $\frac{1}{2}$ cup, and let dry of a day or so. Put about $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of the dry soil in a plastic bag. You can use any leftover soil to fill in the holes. Repeat this process for each area you are testing. If you are testing multiple areas in your yard, make sure to label the bags separately.

3 - Bring your soil sample to the Massachusetts Master Gardener Association pH Soil Testing event:

NSRWA/WaterSmart Gardening Green Expo

Saturday, March 21

10:00am–2:00pm

Kennedy's Country Gardens

85 Chief Justice Cushing Hwy (Rt. 3A), Scituate, MA