

## Frequently Asked Questions and Other Considerations

### How quickly will I get my results?

Turn around time is **10 to 14 business days from the day we receive your sample**. The process makes it virtually impossible to get your results in less than 10 days. Please plan accordingly. April and May are our busiest months. Turn around time is usually 14 working days during these months.

Want to help us maintain our turn around time?

Consider the following:

- Please write your email address legibly as well as other contact information. The most frequent reason for a missing report is an incorrectly entered e-mail address in our database.
- The **county** is important. If you do not provide it, we have to take the time to look it up. Not sure what county you live in? Click here. <http://www.nh.gov/municipal/index.html>
- Remember to include payment (check or cash) for the correct amount with your completed form and sample(s). We can not process your soil until we have payment.

### Which test should I choose?

On the Home Grounds and Garden form, the difference between choosing either the Standard Gardening test **OR** the Organic Gardening test, is the type of fertilizer you plan on using.

If you would like **organic fertilizer recommendations**, choose the **Organic Gardening** test (this test **INCLUDES** soil pH, organic matter content and a lead screening analysis.)

If you would like **non-organic, chemical fertilizers recommendations**, choose the **Standard Gardening** test (this test **INCLUDES** soil pH and a lead screening analysis.)

If you choose the Standard test, you can also choose to have the organic matter content tested for an additional \$5.00. Please check the appropriate boxes.

### Will my report have fertilizer recommendations or just the soil analysis?

Your report will include the amount of extractable calcium, magnesium, potassium and phosphorus in your soil. Recommended fertilizer amounts will be given for each. Soil pH is included and recommendations for adjustments using lime, if needed, will be given.

### How much soil should I send?

We only need **one cup** of dry, rock/grass/root/worm free soil.

### What is Copy Information?

Copy information refers to the option of having your results sent to a second person. It is generally used in a company/client situation.

### Can I receive my results in two formats?

No, your results can be sent to you one way. Either via e-mail, US mail or fax. Please check only one box.

### **What does “manure to be used” mean?**

If you plan on using any manure, check the **yes** box on the form. Your fertilizer recommendations will take into consideration the potential use of manure.

If you are unsure of the amount, it is okay to leave this box blank.

### **Does it matter what form I use?**

Using the correct form is important! **For example**, if you are a home owner and want recommendations for a hay-field use the non-commercial hay and pasture form. If you are a commercial blueberry grower, use the commercial fruit form. If you are a homeowner and want vegetable garden recommendations, use the Home Grounds and Garden form and check the box for vegetable garden. If you want lawn recommendations, use the Home Grounds and Garden form and check the box for lawn.

One completed cover sheet is sufficient if you are sending many samples on the **same** form.

For every crop you choose on the Home Grounds and Garden form, you will receive recommendations specific to that crop. Other forms may limit you to one or two crops, please read carefully.

Fill out the form as completely as possible. The more complete your answers, the more complete your report will be. Some forms ask for field size in acres, this is important. Please do not leave blank. An estimate is better than leaving the space blank.

### **Do I have to mail in my soil sample or can I drop it off?**

Samples can be dropped off or mailed to our office on the UNH campus in Durham. All samples are processed through this office.

**Directions to Spaulding Hall.** Our road name has changed from College Road to Academic Way. Most vehicle GPS systems and driving direction sites such as Map Quest do not acknowledge Academic Way. The combination of the written directions on this site as well as the campus map available on the UNH transportation site should enable you to find us.

### **And finally, from our Lab Staff:**

- There is no need to use duct tape, electrical tape, scotch tape or any other tape to secure your sample in a plastic bag.
- Zip-lock bags are the best way to send your sample to us. Sandwich bags with twisty ties, glass jars, or tin cans all have their drawbacks.
- Staple all the pages of your report together. There is no need to staple the check to the form. Folding it in with the form is sufficient.
- Do not put your check and/or the form in the bag with the soil, or in an envelope tape to the outside of the box.
- A padded envelope or a small box is a good way to send your sample. Business envelopes are not strong enough.
- There is no need to cut apart the sample information section of the form and tape it to each sample. Use a sharpie to write the sample name on the outside of the bag.
- Please use a 2010 form. Some older forms do not ask for all the information we now need.

Thank you for taking the time to read this! We hope it has answered your questions. If not, feel free to contact us at 603-862-3200 or [soil.testing@unh.edu](mailto:soil.testing@unh.edu).