



Soil Testing Form – Christmas Trees

Instructions:

- Soil sampling instructions, test descriptions and crop codes are on page 2.
- Please print legibly.
- Please give each sample a unique name.
- Make checks payable to “UNH Cooperative Extension.”
- Please allow 3 WEEKS for test results.

Mail or Bring Samples to:

UNH Cooperative Extension
Spaulding Hall – Room G28
38 Academic Way
Durham, NH 03824

Questions? Call 603-862-3200

Email: soil.testing@unh.edu

Visit: extension.unh.edu/diagnostics

Name: _____ Business: _____ County: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____ FAX: _____

Receive Test Results by (choose one): ☐ Email ☐ Mail ☐ FAX

Payment Type: ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Account

UNH ID # Leave blank	Sample Name	Crop Codes*	Year of Planting	Field Soil Test \$16	% Organic Matter \$4	pH ONLY \$8	Micro- nutrients \$8	TOTAL Sample Cost:
* List codes for all crops for which you would like recommendations. See list on back of page.								TOTAL COST:

If you have **recently applied** (within the past year) OR **intend to apply** lime or fertilizer please specify the date and rate applied to each sample:

Plantation Age - _____Preplant _____Mid-rotation _____Nearing harvest

Crop Stage - _____Preplant _____3< ft. tall _____4-5 ft. tall _____6-8 ft. tall _____>8 ft. tall _____Mix of sizes

Topography - _____Hilltop _____Hillside _____Bottom of hill _____Ledge outcrop visible _____No hills, flat

Drainage _____Excessively well drained _____Well drained _____Poorly drained _____Very poorly drained

Spacing - _____5'x5' _____6'x6' _____5'x6' _____Other: please list _____

If this test is being used to diagnose a problem, or if you have other comments, please explain:

See next page

Soil Testing Form – Christmas Trees – Page 2

Test descriptions

Field Soil Test includes conventional fertilizer and lime recommendations, based on pH, calcium, magnesium, potassium, and phosphorus levels.

Organic Matter includes the % organic matter content.

Micronutrients include extractable copper, iron, manganese and zinc.

Crop Codes:

- 1 – Scotch pine
 - 2 – Balsam fir
 - 3 – Fraser fir
 - 4 – White pine
 - 5 – Douglas fir
 - 6 – Concolor (white) fir
 - 7 – White spruce
 - 8 - Colorado blue spruce
 - 9 - Norway spruce
 - 10 – Other: please list
-

Directions for taking a Christmas tree sample

- Establish a regular schedule for taking soil samples to determine what may be needed before you plant and to check on the effectiveness of your fertilization management program. Two to three soil tests during a rotation should be adequate. The first should be taken prior to plantation establishment; the second mid-way through the rotation; and the third at the end so that fertility recommendations can be formulated for the next planting.
- Taking soil samples in the late summer or early fall is recommended for Christmas trees. However, soil can be sampled at any time of year when a representative sample can be obtained. Sampling should be done at the same time of the year for repeat samples. Samples are best taken six months to a year before planting is planned.
- Treat each unique area as a separate sampling unit. Determine sampling area based on tree species, age and different cultural treatments, and soil type, if known. If not known, use soil moisture class and texture.
- After determining sampling area, take samples in a random fashion by walking through the area in a zigzag pattern and stopping at pre-determined distances. Take twelve subsamples. If the plantation has been fertilized or limed previously in rows, gather soil subsamples from within the previously treated rows.
- Take soil samples when the soil is moderately dry and not immediately after rainfall and not immediately after fertilizing. Remove and discard the top ½ inch of soil.
- Use clean equipment and avoid galvanized containers or those that previously contained fertilizers or similar substances. Select a proper sampling tool. A sampling tube is preferred since it ensures uniform subsample size (½ to ¾ inch copper pipe or conduit is also satisfactory). If this is not available, use a clean spade. Cut a soil slice approximately 1 inch thick to a depth of 6 inches. If the area has been previously limed, limit sampling depth to 4 inches. Slice a ribbon of soil 1 inch wide from the center for the subsample. Discard the soil on either side of the ribbon.
- Mix these subsample ribbons in a clean pail with the other subsamples. The sample must be air dried prior to submission. To air dry - spread 1 cup of soil in a thin layer on waxed paper or in an aluminum pie pan. Good circulation is helpful, but do not place the sample in an area where wind will blow it off the paper. Placing the sample in direct sunlight may help it dry faster. Stir from time to time to ensure complete drying. Place the dried soil in a clean Ziploc bag and mark the bag with the sample name.
- Samples should not be dried with artificial heat.
- Place 1 cup of soil in bag and label with the sample name.