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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNH ID #</th>
<th>Sample Name</th>
<th>Crop Codes*</th>
<th>Year of Planting</th>
<th>Field Soil Test</th>
<th>% Organic Matter</th>
<th>pH ONLY</th>
<th>Micro-nutrients</th>
<th>TOTAL Sample Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$16</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* List codes for all crops for which you would like recommendations. See list on back of page.

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 ____________________________

See next page
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.

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