



## Soil Sample Information Sheet for Commercial Greenhouse and Nursery Production

*Please write legibly or download form and type information before printing. (Form expires July 2026)*

Use another form for lawns, gardens, and commercial field crops. Not for growth media containing greater than 50% organic matter. See other side for sampling instructions. Processing will be delayed if soil is not received in the lab's sample container. For recommendations, be sure to fill in a plant code number. Each sample must have its own form. For more information, go to [www.soiltest.vt.edu](http://www.soiltest.vt.edu) or contact your local Virginia Cooperative Extension office.

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail (results sent by email only*): _____ *Adding <a href="mailto:soiltestlab@vt.edu">soiltestlab@vt.edu</a> to your email contact list may help ensure delivery. Also check spam folder. Mailing Address (results not mailed): _____ City: _____ ZIP Code: _____ County Where Soil is Located (required): _____ Copy Report To (Consultant, etc.): _____ Their E-mail: _____	Date sampled: _____ MM/DD/YY  Office Use only Extension Unit Code: <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 50px; margin: 5px auto;"></div>
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<b>SAMPLE IDENTIFICATION</b>  Your Sample Box Number or Name (Up to 5 digits) <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 20px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><div style="width: 20%;"></div><div style="width: 20%;"></div><div style="width: 20%;"></div><div style="width: 20%;"></div><div style="width: 20%;"></div></div>	<b>PLANT TO BE GROWN</b>  Insert Plant Code # from list at right <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 20px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><div style="width: 20%;"></div><div style="width: 20%;"></div><div style="width: 20%;"></div><div style="width: 20%;"></div><div style="width: 20%;"></div></div>	<b>PLANT CODE LIST</b> (Select One) <b>GREENHOUSE PRODUCTION</b> <b>Cut Flowers</b> 301 Carnations 302 Chrysanthemums 303 Snapdragons  <b>Pot Plants</b> 310 Azaleas 311 Chrysanthemums 312 Lilies 313 Poinsettias  <b>Other Plants</b> 320 Bedding Plants 321 Foliage Plants 322 Hanging Baskets 323 Vegetable Transplants  <b>NURSERY PRODUCTION</b> 351 Field Grown – Acid-Loving Plants 352 Field Grown – Non Acid-Loving Plants 353 Container Grown – Acid-Loving Plants 354 Container Grown -- Non Acid-Loving Plants
<b>SOIL INFORMATION</b> Last Lime Application (For field-grown nursery stock only)		
Months Previous	Rate, Tons/Acre	
<input type="radio"/> – <input type="radio"/> 0 – 6 <input type="radio"/> 7 – 12 <input type="radio"/> 13 – 18 <input type="radio"/> 19+	<input type="radio"/> 0 <input type="radio"/> 0.1 – 1.0 <input type="radio"/> 1.1 – 2.0 <input type="radio"/> 2.1 – 3.0 <input type="radio"/> 3.1+	

<b>SOIL TEST DESIRED AND FEES</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Routine (soil pH, P, K, Ca, Mg, Zn, Mn, Cu, Fe, B, and soluble salts) <input type="checkbox"/> Organic Matter – Determines percentage in soil - no recommendation given	<b>COST PER SAMPLE</b>	
	IN-STATE	OUT-OF-STATE
	No-Charge	\$16.00
	\$4.00	\$6.00
Method of Payment: <input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed <i>or</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Bill my Business    Tax ID # required for billing _____		

Make check or money order payable to **"Treasurer, Virginia Tech"**. Do not send cash by mail. Please send this form, along with any payment, together with corresponding samples in the same sturdy shipping container to: Virginia Tech Soil Testing Lab, 145 Smyth Hall (MC 0465), 185 Ag Quad Ln, Blacksburg VA 24061.

## SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS - BENCH, POT SOILS

### Important:

For test results to be meaningful, use extreme care when you take samples. Test results cannot be any more accurate than the sample submitted to the laboratory. Sample before watering benches or pots. Do not sample when the soil is extremely wet.

### Sampling Benches:

Scrape away the mulch and top 1/4" of soil before sampling. Using a clean trowel or sampling tube, take 8 to 10 cores of soil per 100-foot bench in a random fashion. Sample to the full depth of the soil in the bench. Thoroughly mix all cores from one bench to make one composite sample.

### Sampling Ground Beds, Soil Bins, Potted Plants:

Sample **ground beds** in the same manner as bench soils to a depth of 6" to 7". For **soil bins**, take 8 to 10 cores per bin for the composite sample. For **potted plants**, remove one core of soil from 8 to 10 pots and mix to make one composite sample.

### Preparing the Sample for Shipping:

After thoroughly mixing the composite sample, fill the sample box to the top with the mixture. Fill in the information requested on the side of the sample box, including sample number. Complete the other side of this sheet, and send sample, sheet, and payment to the Soil Testing Laboratory.

## SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS - FIELD SOILS

See instructions on side of soil-sample box.

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*Reviewed by Steve Heckendorn, laboratory manager, School of Plant and Environmental Sciences*

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