

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

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DATE: _____

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____ FAX: _____

TOTAL FEE COLLECTED: _____ Cash, check, or money order. Checks payable to University of Florida.

Soil pH is a measure of the soil's acidity or alkalinity. Soil pH is important because it governs how available nutrients are to plants. Homeowners can use soil pH information to determine if existing plants are suited to a location, choose new plant material best suited to the site, and in applying fertilizer and soil amendments.

The results of your soil pH test(s) are:

| <u>SAMPLE ID</u> | <u>NAME OF PLANT/TYPE OF TURFGRASS</u> | <u>pH</u> | <u>REACTION</u> |
|------------------|--|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | Acid () Alkaline () Neutral () |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | Acid () Alkaline () Neutral () |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | Acid () Alkaline () Neutral () |

Please describe problems or issues in your landscape:

REMARKS:

Agent/staff making recommendation: _____

Please contact the UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County if you have questions regarding this information.

Hillsborough County Extension Service pH test

measures acidity or alkalinity

\$3.00 per sample

UF/IFAS pH test & lime requirement (if needed)

measures acidity or alkalinity and performs lime requirement test if needed

\$3.00 per sample

UF/IFAS pH & soil fertility test

measures soil pH, lime requirement (if needed), P, K, Ca, Mg

\$7.00 per sample

UF/IFAS pH, soil fertility test + micronutrients

measures pH, lime requirement (if needed), P, K, Ca, Mg,

+ Cu, Mn, Zn)

\$12.00 per sample

How to Take a Soil Sample:

- 1) Test areas separately for different uses such as vegetable garden, lawn areas, azaleas, etc.
- 2) For each area to be tested, use a trowel or shovel to take soil from 10 – 15 locations and mix them together in a bucket.
- 3) When testing a soil for lawn, take soil from the upper 2 – 4 inches. When sampling for a vegetable garden or landscape plants, take soil from the upper 6 inches.
- 4) From this mixture, take out about 1 cup of soil. This is the representative sample that you'll submit.
- 5) Allow the soil to dry on newspaper or in an open container.
- 6) Put the dry soil in a plastic bag, zip top bag, or other clean container.
- 7) Label each sample with your name, phone number, and identifying information about where the sample was taken (example: front yard, vegetables, back yard).
- 8) Fill out the soil test form and specify what kind of plant(s) you are testing the soil for. Lawn samples should specify what kind of grass is planted or to be planted.
- 9) Samples for pH only may be brought to the County Extension office Monday – Friday, 8 AM – 5 PM, except holidays. Testing is usually done on Friday mornings and results are mailed or e-mailed as soon as possible. The cost for each sample is \$3.00. Make checks payable to **University of Florida**.
- 10) Mail samples for University of Florida tests to the [UF/IFAS Extension Soil Testing Laboratory](#) in Gainesville.

For general pH ranges of common landscape plants, consult the

[*Florida-Friendly Landscaping Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design:*](#)

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/publications/files/FFL_Plant_Selection_Guide.pdf