

# Don't Guess, Get a Soil Test!

*Frequently Asked Questions about soil testing services in Chesterfield County*

**Where can I get a soil testing kit?**

Pick up a free soil testing kit at any Chesterfield County Public Library or the cooperative extension office. Follow kit instructions and contact the extension office for assistance with the interpretation of your soil test results for fertilizer and lime recommendations.

**Why Soil Test?**



A soil test can provide information on the proper amount of lime and fertilizer to apply to your lawn, garden and other areas of your landscape. When gardeners apply only as much lime and fertilizer as is necessary and at the appropriate time, nutrient runoff into surface or ground water is minimized, money is saved, and plant health is optimized. Soil testing can also be used to diagnose common nutrient deficiencies or toxicities for plants that are growing poorly. Virginia Cooperative Extension recommends that the soil be tested every three years.

**Can you test my lawn?**

If you are interested in testing lawn areas, you might want to sign up for our Grass Roots Program. Program includes a site visit by a Chesterfield Master Gardener to evaluate present lawn conditions and collect a soil sample. Following the soil analysis you will receive a personalized report and detailed instructions. Contact the extension office for more information about Grass Roots.

**Where can I get my soil sample processed?**

Soil testing kits are free, however, there is a fee for processing the test and postage to mail to the soil lab at Virginia Tech. Also note that there is a private soil testing lab located near the Chesterfield County Airport that can take and process soil samples. For more information about private testing, please call Waypoint Analytical at 804-743-9401.



**Chesterfield County Cooperative Extension**

9501 Lori Rd  
Chesterfield, Va. 23832  
804.751.4401

<http://www.chesterfield.gov/extension/>

