



## Tests and Fees

### Basic Test

**Cost \$30**

Analysis includes organic matter, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, CEC, pH, buffer pH and reports.

### Complete Test


**Cost \$40**

Analysis includes Basic Test plus conductivity, boron, copper, iron, manganese, sulfur and zinc.

### Onsite Service

**Cost \$70**

If you would like the SWCD to take the samples onsite for you (up to a maximum of 5), an additional \$70 service fee will apply.



## Contact

Hamilton County  
Soil and Water  
Conservation District  
at

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## SOIL TESTING



Would You Like To  
Have Your Soil Tested?

*The Hamilton County  
Soil and Water  
Conservation District  
can help.*



**HAMILTON COUNTY**  
*Soil & Water*



**CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

## What Is A Soil Test?

A **soil test** is a process by which elements (phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, boron, sulfur, manganese, copper, iron and zinc) are chemically removed from the soil and measured for their "plant available" content within the sample. The quantity of available nutrients in the sample determines the amount of fertilizer or other soil amendment that is recommended. A soil test also measures soil pH, organic matter and cation exchange capacity (CEC). These analyses indicate whether lime is needed and, if so, how much to apply.

## Why Have Your Soil Tested?

- Encourages plant growth by providing the best lime, fertilizer or other soil amendment recommendations.

*When growers guess about the need for lime or fertilizers, too little or too much is likely to be applied. By using a soil test report, the grower does not need to guess.*

*For Example: When applying too much lime, soil pH may rise above the needed level, which causes nutrients such as iron, manganese, boron, copper and zinc to become less available to plants. It is also common to see homeowners purchase one bag of lime when they purchase one bag of fertilizer. Based on a lawn size of 5000 square feet, one bag of fertilizer may be enough. Applying one bag of lime over 5000 square feet, however, will have little effect on soil pH.*

- Diagnoses whether there is too little or too much of a nutrient.
- Promotes environmental quality.

*When gardeners apply only as much fertilizer as is necessary, nutrient runoff into surface or ground water is minimized and natural resources are protected.*

- Saves money that might otherwise be spent on unneeded lime and fertilizer.

*Some home owners routinely apply phosphorus to their lawns. In areas where soil levels are high in phosphorus, a soil test could save these home owners money.*