

## **Koskey's Turf Management Soil Testing Guidelines**

Soil testing aids in the diagnosis of turf and ornamental problems. Many problems are related to weak plants with poor root systems. Soil testing will help determine if poor conditions are related to low levels of phosphorous, potassium, or pH--which is the key to enabling plants to consume fertilizer and nutrients. If the pH of the soil is too high or too low, this nourishment is "locked out."

If you have never had your soil tested, even if you don't have any major problems with your lawn or landscape plants, it is a good idea to perform this test. We will pull soil samples from specific areas which will be sent to a lab for testing. The lab will send out a detailed printout indicating the condition of the soil. For a minimal charge, this is a great management tool which minimizes the guesswork of potential problems. After reviewing the results, we will forward them to you with any recommendations and/or additional treatment requirements.

### **Why You Should Soil Test Your Lawn**

- Every University recommends soil testing for lawns! If we find low nutrient levels or the need for lime, corrective applications can be made so that our maintenance programs work better.
- Most soils aren't perfect for growing good lawns. Many lawns are growing on sub-soil left over after new home construction. Soils can be significantly different from lawn to lawn.
- A soil test is environmentally responsible. Over application of some nutrients may be harmful to the environment.
- Soils constantly undergo change. The quantity of plant nutrients in the soil changes as a result of changes in the soil, rainfall, clipping removal and the addition of fertilizer.
- A soil test is the best way to tell if your soil can supply the nutrients needed for a good lawn. If the soil tests reveal that your soil is suitable for growing a healthy lawn, then our maintenance programs will take care of the needs of your lawn.
- A soil test is like a "physical exam" for your lawn. It shows us if there are any "hidden hungers" and how much and what to prescribe for a corrective application.
- Lawns have minimum nutrient requirements below which plant health is sacrificed. Although nitrogen alone can produce a good looking lawn, long-term plant health cannot be assured unless other nutrients are present in the correct amounts and the soil pH is in the preferred range.
- Our maintenance fertilizer programs will produce great looking lawns if we know adequate nutrients are in the soil and the pH is in the preferred range. A soil test will show whether your lawn needs any corrective applications.
- A soil test tells us if your lawn is too acid- or alkaline-based, and shows us if levels of phosphorus and potassium are adequate.

*Soil testing is also available upon request for vegetable, flower and plant gardens.*