

Instructions for Submitting Samples:

Unless a representative potting mix soil samples is taken, the analysis and interpretations cannot be meaningful. The following instructions will help you obtain representative samples.

When to Sample Potting Mixes/Soils –

1. Stockpiles – before adding fertilizers.
2. Bedding and potting plants – prior to seeding or planting.
3. Bench crop – initially and then every 3 months.
4. Vegetable crop – before fertilization prior to planting.
5. Problem areas – immediately! Also sample an adjacent “good” area for comparison.

Many fertility problems may be avoided by sampling stockpiles of potting mix/soils before adding fertilizer. Once the fertility level of the basic soil mix is established, a suitable soil fertility program can be established. Fertilizer should be mixed with the potting mix/soil according to the recommendations and considering whether the plants will be fertilized with an injector system.

Sampling the potting mix/soil while a crop is growing helps determine whether adequate nutrient levels are being maintained. This soil test information can be used to develop sound soil fertility programs.

How to Sample –

1. Potted plants – sample pots from top to bottom in several places/pots.
2. Bedding plants – sample to depth of flat or container.
3. Ground beds or benches – sample to 8 inches or depth of bench.
4. Transplanting potting mix/soil or compost pile – sample to 12 inches from several places.

General Information –

- *Do not sample less than 6 hours after water or less than 24 hours after fertilizer application through an injector system or 5 days after dry fertilizer application.
- *A soil probe or similar device is preferred for sampling.
- *Scrape aside mulch and top ¼ of surface before sampling.
- *Sample 15 to 20 locations when practical.
- *Mix sample thoroughly.
- *Samples do not need to be dried.

Fill a plastic bag with 1 pint minimum potting mix/soil. Fill out the sample submission form (on the reverse side). Package securely.

Submitting Samples - Send your sample by U.S. mail, UPS, or other delivery system OR drop your sample off at one of the laboratories listed below. Please be sure to include this sheet.

Soil & Plant Analysis Lab
8452 Mineral Point Road
Verona WI 53719
(608) 262-4364

Soil & Forage Analysis Lab
2611 East 29th Street
Marshfield WI 54449
(715) 387-2523