Intake #_____

pH test by _____

# Master Gardeners of North Alabama
# Soil pH Test Request

**Date:** _____

**Customer Name:** _____

**Email:** _____ **Phone**: _____

Sample A

**Current or desired plantings for this area:**

_____

_____

**Sample is from a:** ☐ **raised bed** ☐ **planter** ☐ **garden bed** ☐ **lawn**

**How many core samples were combined into this one sample?** _____

**Did you recently add amendments to the soil?** **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐

**If answer is "yes", what did you add?** _____

pH results: _____ recommended pH: _____ (based on plantings list)

Treatment Suggestions: _____

Sample B

**Current or desired plantings for this area:**

_____

_____

**Sample is from a:** ☐ **raised bed** ☐ **planter** ☐ **garden bed** ☐ **lawn**

**How many core samples were combined into this one sample?** _____

**Did you recently add amendments to the soil?** **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐

**If answer is "yes", what did you add?** _____

pH results: _____ recommended pH: _____ (based on plantings list)

Treatment Suggestions: _____

## pH Guide

| Very Acid | Acid | Slightly Acid | Neutral | Alkaline |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5.0 and below | 5.0 to 6.0<br>Good for azaleas, blueberries | 6.0 to 7.0<br>Ideal for gardens, lawns, flowers, most shrubs | 7.0 | 7.4 and above |

**for more information, visit** https://aaes.auburn.edu/soil-forage-water-testing-lab/

**Questions? Email phtesting@mginfo.org**

# COLLECTING YOUR SOIL SAMPLE

**QUICK TIPS:**

- Select samples of soil only (no mulch or rocks).
- If recently fertilized, remove as much visible fertilizer as possible.
- Collect soil that is established *(if you just created beds with potting soil or manure your pH will be listed on the bag—this should be sufficient for your needs).*
- If the soil is damp or wet, let it dry out before submitting *(or bake in oven at 200 for 10-15 minutes.)*
- Soils that differ in appearance, plant growth, or past treatment should be sampled separately. One sample can represent only one soil condition. Even when the area is small, if the plants are growing well in most of the area but poorly in a spot, collect a sample from the poor spot and another from the good area.
- **This is only a pH test**; for a full soil analysis of phosphorus, potassium, magnesium and calcium and recommendations on fertilizer and lime, Auburn University offers this service for $10 per sample (you ship); containers available at your Extension Office.

**TOOLS:** a bucket, spade/core sample tool, container for separating mulch/rocks, and a plastic bag for submitting each sample (up to two).

**COLLECTION:** *for good YouTube videos by Auburn University on collecting samples, visit either* https://aaes.auburn.edu/soil-forage-water-testing-lab/

or https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/counties-statewide/home-soil-testing-taking-a-sample/

- For planting areas:
  - dig 3-4 inches below surface
  - take uniform cores or slices from random spots in the garden/shrub bed (15-20 from random spots recommended for a bed)
  - mix the samples together in the bucket
  - pull one cup from the mixture
  - transfer to the plastic bag
- For lawns:
  - dig 6-7” below surface
  - remove the grass
  - take several samples in different areas of the lawn (Auburn recommends 20 or more across the entire yard for truly accurate reports)
  - mix the samples together in the bucket
  - pull one-half cup from the mixture
  - transfer to a plastic bag (separate from your planting area sample) and include the type of grass (e.g., Bermuda, Zoysia, St. Augustine, etc.) on the bag

**LABEL YOUR SAMPLE:**

- Write your name and Sample” A” or “B” on the outside of each plastic bag.