



SOIL TEST TIPS FOR MORE PRODUCTIVE GRASSLAND

Soil sampling is an often-neglected but important component of an effective grassland management program. Sampling in fall will give you a head start by telling you the pH of the soil and any deficiencies in nutrient levels. With this information you can plan accordingly to apply lime and fertilizer in order to provide nutrients only where they're needed.

In most situations soil needs to be tested every two to three years. Here are a few soil sampling tips.



TIMING IS KEY

Soil test levels will vary throughout the year so it's important to sample at the same time each year. Changes in soil temperature and moisture will impact nutrients, creating higher levels in fall and winter compared to summer and spring.



ACCURATELY GATHER SAMPLES

A composite soil sample is made up of multiple smaller samples, called cores, taken at random throughout the test area. Standard soil samples for no-till and pasture lands should be taken from the surface to a depth of four to six inches. This is where active nutrient uptake occurs and residual fertilizer nutrients accumulate.



KNOW THE REQUIREMENTS

The recommended number of core samples is 15-20 per management zone (areas that have similar characteristics). These zones should not be larger than 20 acres. Cores from each zone should be thoroughly mixed to create a composite sample. At least one pint of soil is needed for an accurate test.



DON'T FORGET THE 5-YEAR PLAN

Subsoil samples may be required every four to five years. These samples should be taken at a depth of six inches below normal testing depth, or 10 inches for range and pasture.



USE THE RIGHT TOOLS

Contamination of the samples can occur when the wrong tools are used for sampling. All samples should be taken with clean steel tools and contained in plastic buckets. Galvanized or copper buckets and tools can leave copper and zinc in samples affecting test results.

Armed with accurate information, you can plan an effective strategy for maximizing the production of your grasslands. Nufarm is committed to helping you maintain that production by exceeding your high standards with sustainable, leading-edge plant protection, while providing advice on best choice products for the most commonly occurring problems. **WE'RE HERE TO HELP.**



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For specific application rates, directions, mixing instructions and precautions, read the product label. Please visit www.nufarm.com/uscrop to download a full label.

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