

Soil and Water Testing Laboratories in Oregon	Soil			Water			Other			
	Agriculture	Heavy Metals	Pesticides, Chemicals	Biological	Pesticides	Nitrate	Plant Tissue	Feed	Fertilizer Recommend	Consulting
AgSource P.O. Box 1350, Umatilla, OR 97882 541-922-4894 or 800-537-1129 Umatilla@agsource.com	X						X	X	X	X
Alexin Analytical Laboratories 13035 SW Pacific Hwy., Portland, OR 97223 503-639-9311 FAX 503-684-1588 mail@alexinlabs.com www.alexinlabs.com		X		X		X				X
Analytical Laboratory Group 361 W Fifth Ave., Eugene, OR 97401 541-485-8404 or 800-262-5973 Alglabs@alglabsinc.com		X		X		X				X
Exova 12003 NE Ainsworth Circle, Portland, OR 97220 503-253-9136 or 800-375-9555 Brian.parmenter@exova.com www.exova.com		X	X					X		X
Pacific Agricultural Laboratory 12505 NW Cornell Rd., Portland, OR 97229 503-626-7943 sthun@pacaglab.com www.pacaglab.com			X		X		X			
OMIC USA, Inc. 3344 NW Industrial St., Portland, OR 97210 503-223-1497 abmgr@omicusa.com www.omicnet.com	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
Oregon State University Central Analytical Laboratory Ag & Life Sciences Bldg., Room 3079 Corvallis, OR 97331-7306 541-737-2187 FAX 541-737-5725							X		X	

Why should I collect a soil sample?

- Establish baseline soil nutrient status for new landowners.
- Measure change in soil nutrient status over time.
- Document soil nutrient management for certification requirements.
- Determine nutrient application recommendations prior to planting.
- Assess pH and the need for liming.
- Avoid excessive nutrient applications or soluble salt accumulation.
- Develop a plan for possible variable-rate fertilizing within a field.

When should I collect my soil sample?

- For perennial crops such as orchards, tree plantations, alfalfa, grass seed, and permanent pasture, the most important time to have the soil analyzed is before planting, so that necessary nutrients can be mixed into the soil.
- For Christmas trees, established fruit and nut trees, berries, and grapes, use annual foliar tissue analysis instead of soil testing. Soil samples are recommended every 3 to 5 years or when the tissue analyses indicate a need.

Where should I collect a soil sample?

The area in which to collect a soil sample may depend on the soil type, crops grown, management history, or all of these.

How do I collect my soil sample?

Sample where the crop will be planted. If you are using raised beds take your samples in the beds, not in the areas between them.

Avoid unusual areas.

Avoid sampling in small areas where you know that conditions are different from the rest of the field.

Take 15 to 20 subsamples.

Avoid contaminating the sample. Use clean sampling tools and avoid contaminating the sample during mixing or packaging. A small amount of fertilizer residue on tools or hands, for instance, can cause serious contamination of the soil sample. Do not include mulch or vegetation in the sample. Do not use galvanized metal, brass, or bronze tools to collect samples that will be tested for micronutrients (such as zinc).

Take the soil sample to the correct depth.

Sample the part of the soil where the plant roots will grow. For most annual and perennial crops, sample from the surface down to about 6 to 8 inches or to the depth of tillage.

Carefully mix the soil sample.

Place all of the soil subsamples from a single sampling area in a clean container and mix thoroughly. Do not worry about breaking the sample up into tiny particles. Labs have soil grinders to further mix the sample.

Excerpts from “A Guide to Collection Soil Samples for Farms and Gardens”, M. Fery and E. Murphy © 2013 Oregon State University. Revised July 2002 and September 2013. More info is available on the OSU Extension Service website (extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/) Search within the catalog Series # EC 628.

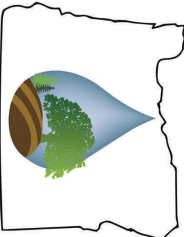
Soil and Water Testing Labs

This guide lists a variety of laboratories serving Oregon, and provides specific information about laboratory services. Before submitting material to a lab, pay attention to the following guidelines:

- **Be sure the test you request is the right one to answer your question.** Nutrients aren't the only factor for successful crop production, so a soil test may not tell you why your plants don't grow. Ask a county Extension agent or other agriculture professional which tests you may need.
- **Before sending samples, call the lab to inquire about costs and shipping instructions.** For example, soil samples to be tested for nitrate-nitrogen should be refrigerated or dried rather than sent moist at room temperature.
- **Beware of low prices.** Laboratory procedures cost money to perform. A lab quoting a low price usually analyzes a few elements and estimates the others. You do not want estimates—make sure you obtain results from analytical work.

For more information please contact:
OSU Extension Service— Polk County
 289 E Ellendale, Suite 301
 Dallas, OR 97338
 503-623-8395
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/polk/>

This pamphlet contains information produced by Oregon State University, John Hart, Melissa Fey and Elizabeth Murphy. Condensed and reproduced courtesy of:



Polk SWCD
 580 Main Street, Suite A
 Dallas, OR 97338
 503-623-9680
www.polkswcd.com

Soil and Water Testing Laboratories in Oregon	Soil			Water		
	Agriculture	Heavy Metals	Pesticides, Chemicals	Biological	Pesticides	Nitrate
Edge Analytical Laboratory, Inc. 540 SW Third, Corvallis, OR 97333 541-753-4946 • smiller@edgeanalytical.com				X	X	X
Specialty Analytical 19761 SW 95th Ave., Tualatin, OR 97062 503-607-1331 • marty@specialtyanalytical.com www.specialtyanalytical.com		X	X	X	X	X
Test America (<i>testing done offsite</i>) 9405 SW Nimbus Ave., Beaverton, OR 97008 503-906-9200 www.testamericainc.com	X	X	X	X	X	X
Umpqua Research Company P.O. Box 609, Myrtle Creek, OR 97457 541-863-5201 ab@urcmail.net www.chemlab.cc		X	X	X	X	X
Waterlab Corp. 2603 12th St. SE Salem, OR 97302 503-363-0473 waterlab@comcast.net waterlabcorp.com				X		X

Labs wishing to be added to this list may contact:
Department of Crop and Soil Science
Ag & Life Sciences Building 3017
Oregon State University Corvallis, OR
 97331-7306 (541) 737-5712

For a list of laboratories approved by the Oregon Health Division for drinking water analysis, contact: **Oregon Health Division, Drinking Water Systems, P.O. Box 14450, Portland, OR 97214-0450, or call 503-731-4010 or 503-731-4009.**

Lab Information provided by John Hart, OSU extension soil scientist specialist, retired.
 Revised June 2006 & May 2008
Copyright 2008 Oregon State University
 More info is available on the OSU Extension Service website (extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog)
 Search the catalog by the series number, EM 8677.

Contact information in this brochure updated Aug. 2015 by Polk Soil and Water Conservation District.