

# How to Take a Soil Sample

Always follow the procedures included with your soil sampling materials or recommended by your agronomist.

Below are general guidelines.

1. Use a sampling tube, spade, trowel, or long knife. Sample soil 6-8 inches deep for crops, gardens, shrubs or trees, and 3-4 inches deep for lawn. Be sure to remove any surface residue, thatch or stones.
2. Sample different areas of the field, lawn, garden or landscape separately. Take several cores or slices from each separate area.
3. Combine the cores or slices in a bucket and mix well. Transfer one cup of the mixed sample to a soil sample or plastic bag. Label and number bag as needed.
4. Enclose sample bag in a shipping box. Place information sheet and payment in the box and ship via your preferred method.

OR

Bring samples to the place you obtained your testing materials for shipment.

OR

Follow the instructions included with the sampling materials or by your agronomist.

The Missaukee Conservation District has a soil probe available to borrow in order to take your samples.

**Missaukee Conservation District**



6180 West Sanborn Road, Suite 3 Phone: 231.839.7193  
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[www.missaukee.org](http://www.missaukee.org)

# 2023

## Soil Sampling Cost-Share Program Guide

Made possible by the 2018 Missaukee Conservation District millage which will be up for renewal in 2024

**Living better with**

~Fresh air~

~Healthy soils~

~Clean water~

~More recycling and~

**Our mission is to provide leadership in promotion and protecting our County soil, water and other natural resources through education and technical assistance.**

All district programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis.

### Program Overview

This soil sampling cost-share program is available to any Missaukee

county landowner that would like to know and understand the makeup of their soil. Farmers, gardeners, and landowners can take advantage of this incentive. Governmental entities are not eligible for this program.

How does this work? Take a soil sample, bring the soil test results and receipt to the Missaukee Conservation District where you will be partially reimbursed for the testing costs. The program is funded by

### **Why Test Your Soil?**

- Choose the correct fertilizers
  - Give your plants what they really need
- Helps avoid excessive fertilizer use
  - Saves money
  - Protects the environment
  - Prevents damage to the plant
- Improves crop yield and plant growth

### **What You Need to do to Participate**

1. Obtain soil testing materials. *Missaukee Conservation District does have a soil probe to loan out.*
2. Take the samples and send them out for testing
3. Bring a copy of your receipt and test results to the Missaukee Conservation District
4. Get reimbursed for a portion of your testing costs

***If interested, contact GraceAnna Cooper at 231.839.7193  
or by e-mail at [graceanna.cooper@macd.org](mailto:graceanna.cooper@macd.org).***

### **Where to Bring Soil Samples**

**ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

#### **Ceres Solutions (2 locations)**

101 N. Pine Street, McBain, MI 49657 - 231.825.2483

or

260 East Prosper Road, Falmouth, MI 49632 231.826.3301

Basic Test/Basic plus Micronutrients..\$15/20 per sample

Obtain a free soil sample bag or use plastic baggie, collect sample, bring 1 cup of soil to Ceres Solutions to be sent to the testing lab. Customers using their own bags will need to place soil in the soil sample bag once at Ceres Solutions. Please ask staff to give you nutrient recommendations.

#### **McBain Grain**

111 W. Maple Street

McBain, MI 49657

231.825.2172

Basic Test - \$15 per sample

Micros - Add \$7

Even More Micros - Add \$8.50

Obtain a free soil sample bag or use a plastic baggie, collect a sample, bring 1 cup of soil to McBain Grain to be sent to the testing lab. Customers using their own bags will need to place soil in the soil sample bag once at McBain Grain.

**The Missaukee Conservation District will cost-share 50% of the cost of each test not to exceed \$100 per Missaukee County household per calendar year. This will be done on a first-come first-serve basis and will continue until funds are depleted.**