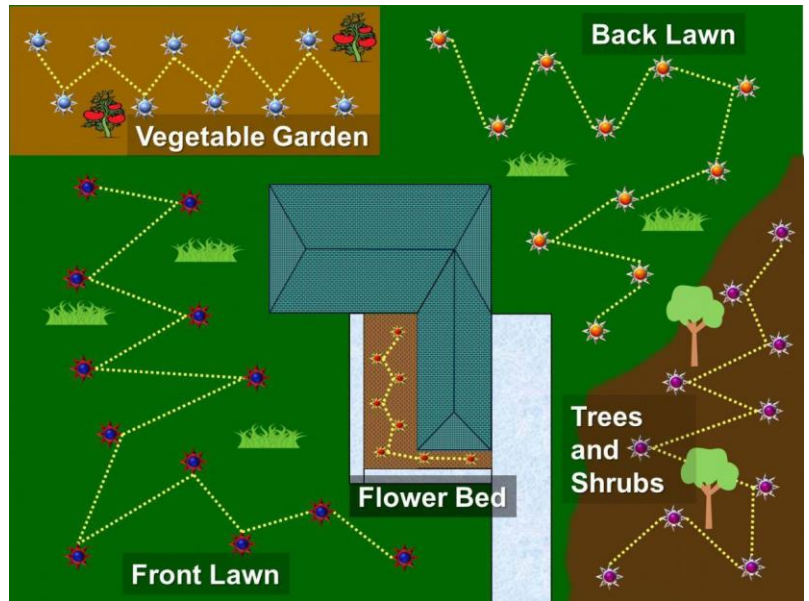


How to Take a Soil Test for the Homeowner

1. Map out area to be sampled – see diagram.
2. Using a soil probe or clean trowel pull 10-15 samples:
 - a. Turf – 3-4” deep
 - b. Trees – 8-10” deep
 - c. Garden 5-6” deep
3. Remove organic matter from soil (thatch, leaves, stones, etc.) without handling soil.
4. Combine samples from each area and allow to air dry.
5. Submit approximately 2-3 cups of soil to soil testing lab in clean Ziploc bag or Soil Sample bag from lab.
 - a. Be sure to label sample as where it came from (i.e. – garden, front lawn, flower beds, etc.).
 - b. For garden samples, you may be asked what crops you are growing.
 - c. Ask for soil amendment recommendations on your sample results.
6. Develop a plan with your local supplier to utilize appropriate amendment materials.
7. Soil testing should be repeated every 3-4 years if amendments need to be made.



For pastures, forage crop fields, and row crop fields sampling procedures are very similar. 10-15 samples per acre are recommended and performed every 3-4 years. Soil tests should be taken the year prior to planting desired crop so appropriate amendments can be made.