

## Steps in Soil Sampling

Recommendations about when and how to apply nutrients are only as good as the soil sample submitted for analysis.

To obtain a representative soil sample, the following steps are useful: identify sampling locations (areas), determine the size of the area, and use a zigzag approach when taking samples. Collect eight to 10 soil samples from each area as shown in Figure 1.

For trees and shrubs, take soil samples from six to eight spots around the dripline of the plants.

## 2. Sampling Depth

The depth of sampling depends on the type of plants being grown.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When and how often should soils be tested?

A: Soils can be tested any time during the year. Allow enough time for the analysis and for fertilizer and lime application.

Lime reacts slowly and should be mixed with the soil two to three months before

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