

## SOIL TESTING SERVICES

MB Laboratories Ltd. offers a complete line of soil testing services. Soil testing is the most accurate guide to your crop's fertilizer requirements. A regular soil testing program will allow you to increase productivity and save money by utilizing the existing fertility already present in your soil.

### Important Elements in Soil Fertility

**Lime** - The application of lime neutralizes soil that is too acidic (low pH). It also provides calcium and makes other nutrients available to plants.

**Nitrogen** - Various plants require Nitrogen at different levels. Nitrogen can be added to the soil. Sandy soils normally requires more Nitrogen than clay soils.

**Phosphorous** - Often present in the soil but not always in a form that plants can use.

**Boron** - Deficient on many soils, Boron is required only in trace amounts. It can be added to the soil as long as the existing levels are low.

### Some Commonly Asked Questions

Q: What is a standard soil fertility test and how much does it cost?

A: The standard soil fertility test measures nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, pH and provides recommendations for soil treatment.

Q: Can my soil be analysed for the presence of all essential elements?

A: Yes. A complete soil analysis measures all of the major and minor elements including nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sulphur, manganese, zinc, copper, cobalt and boron. Also included are pH and conductivity measurements plus recommendations for soil treatment.

Q: How often should I test the soil?

A: Every two to three growing seasons.

Q: How do I collect a soil sample for analysis?

A: 1. Collect samples from the top 8 inches (20 cm) of soil. For large areas collect soil from 10 different sites per acre. Collect these samples in \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Combine multiple soil samples in a single clean \_\_\_\_\_ container and mix well.

3. Submit 1 to 2 cups of soil for analysis.

Note: Do not combine different soil types or soils with significantly different drainage levels into one sample.

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