

# Massachusetts Master Gardener Association

## F A C T S H E E T

**Have gardening questions?** Contact the **Master Gardener Help Line.**

Two locations / two ways to contact us:

At *Mass Hort, Wellesley*: [mghelpline@masshort.org](mailto:mghelpline@masshort.org), 617-933-4929

At *Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston*: [hortline@towerhillbg.org](mailto:hortline@towerhillbg.org), 608-869-6111 x104

Please visit our web site for Help Line open hours <http://massmastergardeners.org/what-i-do/>



## How to take a Soil Sample

**Taking a soil sample for testing is as easy as 1 – 2 – 3!**

1. Identify the area of your property to be tested.

The first step in any soil testing process is to identify the area you want tested. Identify just one area per test a different areas may require different pH levels and, therefore, different treatments.

2. Dig the sample.

Once the area is identified, dig 5 – 10 holes about 3 – 4” deep depending on how large the area to be tested is. Place the dirt that you are digging up in a clean bucket. After all the holes have been dug, go through the soil in the bucket, removing any stones, sticks, and other debris. Let the soil dry out for a day or so in the bucket. Then, put some dry soil, about a half cup, into a plastic bag. You can use any leftover soil to fill in the holes.

3. Bring the sample in to be tested at one of the Mass. Master Gardener events.

*The Massachusetts Master Gardener Association is a non-profit organization whose mission is to share knowledge and experience with the public through outreach programs in education, horticulture and gardening; to provide the Master Gardener Training Program to interested members of the public; and to provide graduates of the Master Gardener Training Program with educational and practical opportunities to extend their knowledge and interests in gardening and related topics.*

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