

Garden Soil Sampling Instructions

(Modified from procedure suggested by UConn Soil Lab)

Follow the instructions below to obtain a representative sample of your soil. Submit about *one quart zip-lock bag (7x7³/₄ in)*, or *~0.5 (one half) lb* of soil through mail. Personal delivery is also accepted during business hours. Turn-around time is usually 2-3 weeks after receiving samples. Results will be sent only by email unless specified.

Sampling Procedure:

- Use a spade or trowel to take small samples of soil from 10 or more random, evenly distributed spots in your area of interest, and put all soil in a clean container. For very small areas, a minimum of three spots is recommended. Sampling depth should be from the top to 3-4 inches deep for a grass lawn, and from the top to 6-8 inches deep for other plants. If you are concerned about growing vegetables in general, please take from the top to 6-8 inches deep.
- Thoroughly mix up the soil in the container. Remove pebbles, leaves and plant roots as possible. Transfer at least one cup of the soil mixture (~0.5 lb) to the plastic bag and seal. Don't fill the bag because it will be flattened if mailed in an envelope.
- Place the plastic bag in a mailing envelope or a small box. (If samples are wet, dry them at room temperature before putting them in the plastic bag. Do not dry samples on a stove or radiator as heat can change the readings.)

IMPORTANT:

Send samples, the completed sample submission forms (one for each sample), and check or money order, made out to "BC Member Organization" to:

Dr. Zhongqi (Joshua) Cheng
Brooklyn College
Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
Environmental Sciences Analytical Center
2900 Bedford Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11210

[Http://testmysoil.brooklyn.edu](http://testmysoil.brooklyn.edu)

(718) 951-5000 x 2647 soil@brooklyn.cuny.edu