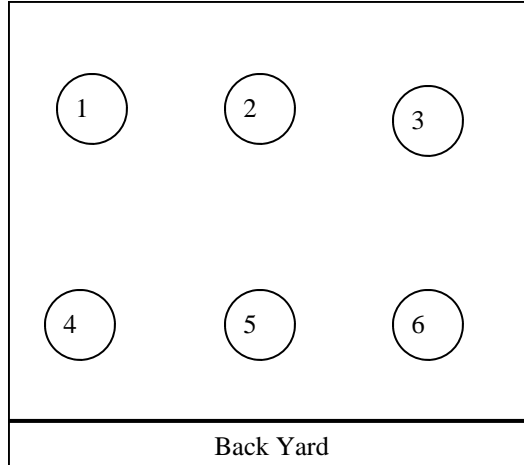
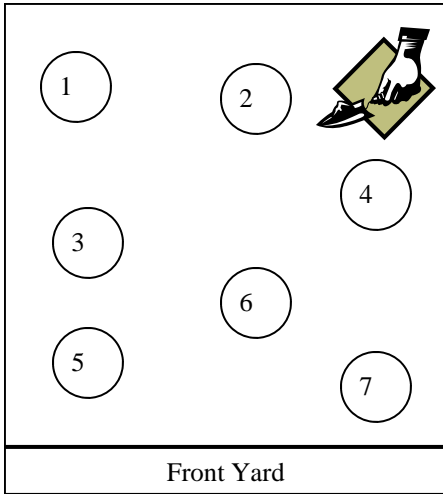


## How to Take a Soil Sample

1. Divide your landscape into areas for sampling. If you have areas with different plants, soil color, or lime or fertilizer histories, take a sample from each area. Mark area on bag and keep the samples separated.
2. Collect samples that provide a general example of the field or area sampled.
3. Do not sample areas that are too small to be treated or limed separately. Use a proper sampling tool, such as a sampling tube or auger. If it is necessary to use a shovel or trowel, dig a 6-inch-deep V-shaped hole in the soil. Slice a 1-inch slab off one side of the hole, and lift out the slab. For the sample, save a 1-inch-wide strip of soil from the center of the slab.
4. Use a sampling tube to take a 6-inch-deep core of soil from at least 6-8 spots in each bed or area to be tested. Sample lawns only to a 3-inch depth. Mix together the cores from one bed or area. Put about a pint of the mixed soil in a plastic or lunch bag.
6. Identify the samples by letter or number. Make a sketch or record so you will know which sample came from which bed or area.
7. Fill out the appropriate submission forms. These forms are available at the Duval County Extension office <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu>. The Duval County Extension Office offers pH testing only. For further testing other than pH, include the proper form, payment and sample and mail to the IFAS Soil Testing Lab in Gainesville. <http://soilslab.ifas.ufl.edu/ESTL%20Tests.asp>
8. Consult with your county extension agent if you need help interpreting the test results or liming recommendations and follow the recommendations!





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### SOIL pH TEST REPORT

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX NO: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list plants in the area as this may effect recommendations.  
 PLANTS GROWN: \_\_\_\_\_ ACREAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

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Your soil pH test results are listed below:

SAMPLE NUMBER																				
LAB NUMBER																				
pH LEVEL																				
* POUNDS LIME PER 1,000 SQUARE FEET																				

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

\_\_\_\_ No soil correction is necessary at this time.

\_\_\_\_ Refer to \* row above for amount of dolomite lime (not hydrated) per 1,000 square feet of area to increase pH.

\_\_\_\_ Your soil pH is too high for sample (s) \_\_\_\_\_. Do not add lime at this time. The addition of organic matter (peat moss) and/or acid fertilizer may help lower soil pH. Acid fertilizers include ammonium sulfate, iron sulfate or a camellia-gardenia-azalea fertilizer. To temporarily lower soil pH, add 5 to 10 pounds of elemental sulfur per 1,000 square feet. Never apply more than this amount or it could damage the plant roots.

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**WHAT IS THE SOIL REACTION (pH)?**

The soil reaction (pH) refers to the degree of acidity (sourness) or alkalinity (sweetness) of a soil. The pH scale was developed to show and measure the soil reaction. The scale ranges from 0 to 14 with 7 being neutral. Numbers below 7 are acid whereas, numbers above 7 are alkaline. The ideal range for many plants is between pH 5.5 and 6.5. With each pH change of one unit, the acidity will change ten fold. For example, a pH of 6.0 is ten times more acid than 7.0, while a pH of 5.0 is 100 times more acid than 7.0.

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