

SOIL pH

Date _____ Email address _____

Name (Please print) _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip Code _____

Please list plants in the area as this may effect recommendations.

Plants or Grass Grown _____

of Acres _____

Your soil pH test results are listed below:

Sample Description or Number								
Lab Number								
pH Level								
* Pounds of Lime per 1000 Sq Ft.								

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.

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.

pH Tips

- Never apply lime or sulfur to your soil without first having a reputable soil test. Too much lime or sulfur can cause problems.
- Mix lime thoroughly and evenly over the entire garden area. Dolomite or calcitic lime takes 2-3 months to react with the soil completely.

A General Fertilizer Program for Plants in Duval County

- Fertilize annuals monthly with a 6-6-6 or similar fertilizer at the rate of 2 pounds per 100 square feet of area. Exceptions are marigolds and periwinkle (vinca) which should be fertilized no more that every 2 months.
- Fertilize vegetables with a fertilizer like 6-6-6 that contains minor elements at a rate of 3 lbs. per 100 sq. ft. or 10-10-10 at a rate of 2 lbs. per 100 sq. ft. Broadcast over the entire plot one to two weeks before planting. Band with 4 to 5 ounces per 10 ft. row as needed. Also, add organic matter (compost, chicken, cow or horse manure) to build and improve the soil. Apply up to 25 pounds per 100 feet 4 to 6 weeks before planting.
- Fertilize ornamental trees and shrubs with a complete fertilizer such as a 16-2-16 or 15-0-15 at the rate of 1 pound nitrogen per 1000 square feet (if 30% or more of Nitrogen is in slow release form) in March and September. Fertilize spring bloomers (azalea, dogwood, spirea) after bloom instead of March. Use an azalea special for acid loving plants. Trees that have been in the landscape for 3 years do not need additional fertilizer if surrounding lawns and bed areas are fertilized.

Lawnglass	Maintenance Level	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Bahia	High			C		SRN		Fe		C			
	Low			C						C			
Bermuda	High			C	SRN	C		SRN	Fe	C	N		
	Low			C		SRN		Fe		C			
Centipede	High				C			Fe		C			
	Low				C								
St. Augustine	High			C		SRN	Fe	SRN		C			
	Low			C			Fe			C			
Zoysia	High			C	N	SRN		SRN		C			
	Low			C		SRN				C			

C= Complete fertilizer at 1.0 lb. N/1000 sq ft. Fertilizer must contain 30% or more SRN. If less, apply .05.

N= Water soluble inorganic nitrogen source applied at 1.0 lb. N/1000 sq. ft. Change 1.0 to .05 pound N/1,000 sq. ft.

Fe= Ferrous sulfate @ 2 oz. In 3-5 gal. water per 1000 sq. ft. or use a chelated iron source.

+ = To reduce chinch bug problems, use a slow-release N source during the summer.

SRN = Slow-release nitrogen applied at 1.0 lbs. N/1,000 sq. ft.

LANDSCAPE PLANTS OF NOTABLE SOIL Ph REQUIREMENTS

Prefer Soil pH below 5.5	Tolerant of wide range of soil pH	Prefer Soil pH above 6.0
Azalea, Blueberry, American Holly, Partridgeberry, Bahiagrass, Ixora, Blue Hydrangea, Phlox, Centipedegrass, pines, maple, fringetree, dogwood, sweetgum and bald cypress.	Bamboo, Bermudagrass, Cherry Laurel, Cleyera, Crape Myrtle, Croton, Feijoa, Hawthorn, Honeysuckle, English /Algerian Ivy, oaks, Oleander, palms, pine, plum, Pyracantha, St. Augustinegrass and Silk-tree.	Ash, Pink Hydrangea, Red Cedar, Sycamore Yucca, Atlantic White Cedar, Catalpa, Sugarberry and Hophornbeam.

For further information or questions, call a Master Gardener at the Duval County Extension Office at 904-255-7450 from 9AM -Noon or 12:30 - 3:30 PM - Monday - Friday.

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