

How to Test Your Soil:

Each test and capsule is color-coded: Green=pH, Purple=Nitrogen, Blue=Phosphorus, Orange=Potash, with a separate color bar to compare your results.

pH Test Only:

Take a soil sample from about 4" below the surface.

Fill tube with soil to the first line.

Remove cap from the green capped tube. Remove the green capsule.

Carefully open the green capsule and pour the powder into the tube.

Add water (preferably distilled) to the fourth line.

Cap tube and shake thoroughly.

Allow soil to settle and color to develop for about a minute.

Compare color of solution to the pH color chart.

N, P and K Tests:

1. Take a soil sample from about 4" below the surface.

2. Fill a clean jar or can with 1 part soil and 5 parts water.

3. Thoroughly shake or stir the soil and water together for at least one minute and then allow the mixture to settle out for at least 10 minutes.

4. Remove cap from tube. Remove colored capsule. (Please note that color of the capsule should match color of tube cap.)

5. Fill tube to fourth line with water from soil/water mixture. Avoid disturbing sediment.

6. Carefully separate the two halves of capsule previously removed from the tube and pour contents into tube.

7. Cap tube and shake thoroughly. Allow color to develop for 10 minutes.

DO NOT EXCEED 20 minutes!

8. For best results allow daylight (not direct sunlight) to illuminate solution.

Note your results.

Adjusting soil pH:

Flowers will grow in soil pH of 4.5 – 8.5 Best growth in soil pH of 6.2 – 6.8. Acidity/alkalinity controls the plant foods available in the soil and can be adjusted to provide more suitable growing conditions for your flowers.

To raise pH, add dolomitic or calcic limestone

Soil Type	Sandy	Loamy	Clay	
Change:				
+1/2 unit (.5pH)	1-2	2-3	4-5	
+ 1 unit (1.0pH)	2-3	4-5	8-10*	
To lower pH, add flowers of sulfur or iron sulfate				
Soil Type	Sandy	Loamy	Clay	
Change:				
-1/2 unit (.5pH)	1/4 - 1/2	1/2 - 1 1/2	1-2*	
-1 unit (1.0 pH)	1/2 - 1*	1-3*	2-4*	

Amounts listed above are in pounds/100 sq. ft. * Do not add more than 5 pounds lime or 1/2 pound sulfur in one application. Altering pH takes time. Do not expect an immediate change. After adding lime or sulfur, retest the pH level to 30 – 60 days. If results are still significantly off, retreat your soil, not exceeding the recommended application rate.

N, P and K adjustments:

If test results are:

Very Low	Low	Medium	High
N 11	N 6	N 3	N None
P 17	P 11	P 6	P None
K 17	K 11	K 6	K None

Amounts listed above are in ounces per 100 sq. ft. and are based on the following sources:

N—Ammonia Sulfate (N 21%), P—Super Phosphate (17.5% P2O5), K—Potassium Sulfate (48% K2O)