

Proper lawn fertilization techniques play an important role in preventing polluted surface runoff from entering nearby streams, Grand Lake St. Marys and the Wabash River. Collecting a soil sample prior to applying lawn fertilizer will determine the actual fertilizer needs of your lawn.

**Equipment needed:**

- clean plastic bucket, soil probe and quart-sized plastic or paper bag

Follow these steps to properly collect a lawn soil sample (recommended method):



**Step 1:**

Label bags appropriately.

**Step 2:**

Walking in a zig-zag pattern, use the soil probe to take ten sub-samples and place them in the plastic bucket.

**Step 3:**

Samples should be taken 3-4 inches deep. Remove any foreign material on the surface prior to using the soil probe.

**Step 4:**

Mix sub-samples thoroughly and place the correct amount of soil (according to your laboratory) into the bags.

**Step 5:**

Take labeled bags and other required materials to your laboratory.

Fertilize lightly in the spring and early summer, little to none in summer and more heavily in the fall. Heavy application in the spring and summer can stimulate disease, weed and insect activity.



<http://www.towson.com/news/ken?action=howTo&p=Lawn&contentId=fertilizingYourLawn>

**Workshop to be held**

**When:** July 19, 2007

**Where:** Harbor Point 4-H Camp

**Time:** 6:30 pm—8:00 pm

**What:** Learn how to properly collect a soil sample and fertilize your lawn

**Guest Speaker:** Pam Sherratt, Turf Management Program Specialist, OSU Extension

**Those attending the workshop will get a soil sample tested for free — a \$15.00 value!**

\*\*Following the workshop, homeowners unable to attend can have a soil sample tested at a cost of \$5.00. Funds are limited.

(Cost-share funds are provided by the Grand Lake/Wabash Watershed Alliance, the Lake Improvement Association and Helena Agronomic Center.)

**Interpreting soil test results:**

Acceptable levels:

pH	6.3 to 7.0
Phosphorus (P) lb/acre	50 to 75
Potassium (K) lb/acre	200 to 250
Calcium (Ca) lb/acre	800 to 16,000
Magnesium (Mg) lb/acre	150 to 2,000

\*If level is below the range, correction is needed.

\*If level is between or above the range, no correction is needed.

**Tip:** To convert parts per million (ppm) to lb/acre, multiply ppm by 2



Improper fertilization techniques can cause lawn streaking  
<http://aibo.www.ecn.purdue.edu/~gpadosis/lawn/src/fer/apply.htm>

Fertilizers have a series of three numbers on the label. These numbers represent the percentages of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. There is currently no soil test available for nitrogen, but it is the most important ingredient for keeping your lawn green.