

NEWSRELEASE

MSU's Kellogg Biological Station ✧ 3700 East Gull Lake Drive ✧ Hickory Corners, Mich., 49060

For Immediate Release

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Area retailers offer FREE lawn soil tests during Earth Day weekend!

Don't guess - soil test. That's the advice of turf management experts. Soil testing is a first step in determining what your lawn needs for optimum health and growth.

Now is the time when property owners long to get out and enjoy warmer temperatures, and get that grass growing green. While nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and other nutrients are necessary for a healthy lawn, over-application or misapplication of fertilizers wastes money, ruins plants, and pollutes water. In our area, that water includes the Kalamazoo River, its tributaries and our numerous lakes.

On Saturday, April 21 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, the following area retailers and hosts are offering residents free testing of their lawn soil:

Albion	Jolly Green Junction	Otsego	• Home Depot
Battle Creek Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scooter's Hardware• Lakeview Hardware• Level Park Hardware	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Battle Creek Farm Bureau, Battle Creek Store• Lowe's• Lelia Arboretum Horticultural Center	
Charlotte	Eaton Farm Bureau	Delton	Delton Floral and Greenhouse
Kalamazoo	Farm N Garden	Marshall	Darling's Hardware
Richland	Richard Hardware	Portage	Lowe's
Allegan	Ace Hardware		

MORE

So, take a sample of your lawn soil in for testing. It's easy! Just follow these directions.

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1. Using a clean trowel and pail, collect ten representative soil samples from your lawn.
2. For each sample, remove a trowel-full of soil that extends a few inches below the surface. (Do not include roots, thatch, plant materials, rocks or gravel in the sample.) Mix the ten soil samples together in the pail.
3. Place 1 cup of the well-mixed soil in a clean plastic bag or container. Dry or damp soil is okay, but soggy soil should be allowed to air dry.

Only one lawn soil sample per person, please.

This free soil testing day is sponsored by area retailers in partnership with a broad coalition of citizen groups, business and industry, state and local agencies and educational institutions interested in the protection and restoration of the water quality of the Kalamazoo River Watershed.