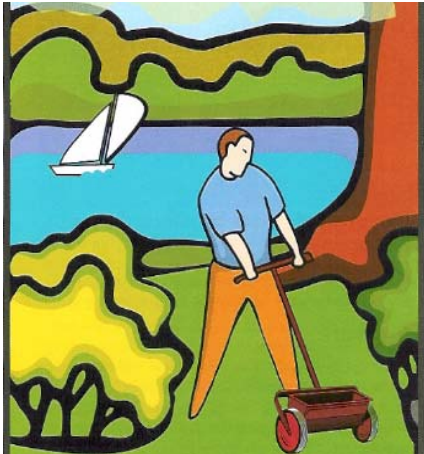


FREE LAWN SOIL TESTING



Don't guess ...
Soil test !

April 19, 2008
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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, misapplication of fertilizers wastes money, harms plants, and pollutes water. In our area, that water includes the Kalamazoo River, its tributaries and our numerous lakes.

Soil testing is a first step in determining what your lawn needs for optimum health and growth. **It's easy!** Just follow these directions.

1. Using a clean trowel and a pail, collect ten representative soil samples from your lawn.
2. For each sample, remove a trowel-full of soil that extends seven 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.
4. Take your soil to one of the testing sites listed below.

Keep your lawn green and your water clean!

PARTICIPATING RETAILERS AND TEST SITES

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Battle Creek Area - | • Battle Creek Farm Bureau, Battle Creek Store | • Lowe's |
| | • Lakeview Hardware | • Scooters Hardware |
| | • Level Park Hardware | • Springfield Do-It Center |

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Albion - Jolly Green Junction | Allegan - Ace Hardware |
| Charlotte - Eaton Farm Bureau | Delton - Delton Floral and Greenhouse |
| Kalamazoo - Farm N Garden | Marshall - Darling's Hardware |
| Portage - Lowe's | Otsego - Home Depot |
| | Richland - Richland Hardware |

PLEASE, ONLY ONE SOIL SAMPLE PER PERSON!

In addition to the sites above, county Conservation Districts are also providing free soil testing in conjunction with their annual spring tree sales. Please call your local Conservation District office for the times and locations.

Area retailers sponsor this free soil testing day in sponsorship with a broad coalition of citizen groups, business and industry, state and local agencies and educational institutions that are working together on protection and restoration of the water quality of the Kalamazoo River Watershed.