Soil pH Testing Procedures

Lincoln County Master Gardeners
Oregon
Using pH Kit from OSU

- Fill the two soil spots half full with same soil
  - Has to be finely ground
  - Preferably wet but not too wet
- Saturate soil with indicator but do not overfill
  - Choose indicator as follows:
    - Bromocresol Green pH 3.8-5.4
    - Chlorophenol red pH 5.2-6.9
    - Bromthymol Blue pH 6.0-7.6
Color Cards

- Allow at least 1-3 minutes to react
- Tilt the plates to get excess indicator into small bowl
- Compare reacted indicator with corresponding color card specific to the original indicator used
This pH is between 5.0-5.4.
Using the pH Test Strips Method

- Put 1-3 teaspoonfuls of soil into plastic container
- Fill to same volume with distilled water
- Stir vigorously for one minute
- Let stand for at least 30 minutes
Filter the soil using a coffee filter into a separate plastic or paper cup
Insert test strip into resultant solution
Compare color to the color chart provided with the strips