SOIL SAMPLE COLLECTION PROCEDURE

Samples should be taken from the “root zone” of the plants being grown in the soil. The “root zone” for grass would be 2 or 3 inches below the surface of the soil. The “root zone” for garden or farm crops would be 6 to 8 inches below the surface. When analyzing a specific area of soil (a lawn, a garden, or field), take the sample from several different locations within the area and mix them together. The resulting sample will provide the average value that will be representative of the entire area.

1. A clean trowel, spoon or knife can be used to obtain the samples.
2. Collect 1 cup of soil.
3. Place the soil samples in a Ziploc bag.
4. The soil should not be touched with the hands any more than is absolutely necessary.
5. After the sample is collected, it should be placed on a piece of clean paper or plastic. The soil should be allowed to dry in the air for several hours or overnight. Do Not bake the soil to accelerate drying.
6. All foreign matter (leaves, roots, stones, etc.) should be removed.

The soil sample is now ready for use in the chemical testing procedures

Each sample will be tested for nitrogen, potassium, phosphorous, pH, humus and soil texture.

$20.00 must be included with each sample to be tested
Make check payable to: Wasco County Master Gardeners Assoc. (WCMGA)

Name________________________________________________________________________
Address______________________________________________________________________
Phone___________________                                               Location of Sample ______________

RETURN TO: Wasco County Master Gardeners
OSU Extension Service
400 E. Scenic Drive Suite 2.278
The Dalles, Or 97058
541-296-5494

This service is available to
Home Gardeners Only