



Soil & Plant Laboratory, Inc

Leaders in Soil & Plant Testing Since 1946  
[www.soilandplantlaboratory.com](http://www.soilandplantlaboratory.com)

## The Benefits of a Fertility Testing Program

What makes a great grower? Experience and knowledge! That is also what has made Soil and Plant Laboratory the leader in soil testing for over 60 years! Our expert consultants have over 160 years of combined experience! Our laboratories use state of the art equipment with reliable methods ensuring that we deliver timely, accurate data to our clients. Our in house services include soil, water and tissue analysis, plant pathology assay, environmental and microbiology testing.

### Why soil test?

A fertility testing program that monitors nutrients and pH management can help you save money! Soil testing is the only way to determine the available nutrient status in soil or soilless media and the only way you can develop specific fertilizer recommendations. Yield and economic return can be optimized when fertilizer rates accurately address the needs of a crop. Potential soil and water pollution can be minimized when nutrient application is geared to the needs of a particular crop. An effective fertility testing program is one in which every field or greenhouse is properly sampled and tested on a regular basis. This gives you a running inventory of the nutrient levels for each crop, plus specific recommendations as to the kinds and rates of fertilizers to apply for each crop. Recommendations can be based on specific times and methods of application. Reliable soil test results and recommendations depend upon many factors, including; proper soil sampling and sample processing procedures, proper soil analysis techniques and sound fertilizer recommendation guidelines.

### Why test plant tissue?

Plant tissue analysis is a tool that can be used to fine-tune fertilizer management practices or to diagnosis nutrient related problems before it is too late. Plant tissue analysis measures the nutrient levels in growing crops. Test values are compared with established values for deficient, optimum and excess nutrient levels for a specific plant species. In this way, the nutritional health of the plant can be assessed and the supply and availability of nutrients to crops during the growing season can be evaluated and modified to maximize quality & yield. Plant tissue analysis in conjunction with soil testing is useful in evaluating fertilizer management programs and practices, diagnosing nutrient-related crop production problems and identifying nutrient levels in crops that may limit yield, growth and health. Like soil testing, the validity and usefulness of plant tissue analysis depends on proper plant sampling and sample handling procedures. These include; sampling crops from individual growing areas separately and sampling the proper plant part at the proper growth stage.

### What about your water?

The impact of water usage rates and environmental concerns make water analysis an integral part of a growers' best management practices. Maybe you have a new source of water or maybe you are considering using recycled water. Water analysis determines it's suitability for horticultural use. Routine analysis provides credibility, consistency and perspective on fertigation management. Analytical data allows a grower to better determine options for developing water treatment and nutrient programs.

Since nutrient levels in soil, plant tissue and water cannot visually be seen, only a professional analysis will expose potential problems. By knowing your crops' requirements and using a fertility testing program, you will save time, money and labor. Growing comes with experience and knowledge!



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