

Soil, Plant and Feed Laboratory

The viability of farming is dependent on the management decisions made by farmers, and one of the the most important factors is how the farmer grows and feeds his crops and livestock.

The Laboratory has established modern soil and feed analytical methods and recommendations that are coordinated with the provincial laboratories in all the Atlantic Provinces.

Sample Types

Soil

- Organic soil
- Mineral soil
- Compost
- Manure

Tissue

- Forage
- Silage
- Hay
- Vegetable
- Small fruit

Feed

- Mill feeds
- Animal feed
- Grain

Soil, Plant and Feed Laboratory Costs ¹: (Effective April, 1997)

Commercial Farmers

Routine Soil Analysis	\$7.00 + HST(1.05)=\$8.05
Routine Feed Analysis	\$7.00 + HST(1.05)=\$8.05
Greenhouse Soil Analysis	\$7.00 + HST(1.05)=\$8.05

Home Gardeners

Routine Soil Analysis ²	\$20.00 + HST(3.00)=\$23.00
pH & Lime Requirements	\$7.00 + HST(1.05)=\$8.05

Notes:

¹ No discount for multiple samples

² pH, lime requirements, P₂O₅, K₂O, Ca, Mg and fertilizer recommendations

Types of Analysis

Soil

Soil pH, phosphate, potash, calcium and magnesium levels are measured in soil samples, assessed, and translated into a limestone and fertilizer recommendation for the crop specified.

Feed

The following analysis are performed on most feed samples: dry matter, pH (silages), crude protein, acid detergent fibre (ADF), total digestible nutrients (TDN), digestible energy, calcium, magnesium, potassium, and phosphorous. Other analysis, such as sodium, neutral detergent fibre (NDF) and crude fat content, can also be carried out depending on the feed type.

The appropriate parameters are summarized and reported to the farmer and Agricultural Representative, and in conjunction with the Regional Livestock Specialist, assist the client in formulating their feeding program.

Tissue

Percent nitrogen, phosphate, potash, calcium, magnesium and parts per million (ppm), iron, copper, manganese and zinc are measured in tissue samples. Tissue Analysis is performed in conjunction with Soil Analysis to detect any potential deficiency which may be present in the plant.

Laboratory Address

Agricultural Chemists can be contacted at (709) 729-6738

Samples can be sent to:

Department of Forest Resources and Agrifoods
Soil Land Management Division
Provincial Agriculture Building
P.O. Box 8700
Brookfield Road
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6
Fax: (709) 729-6734