

# Wildlife Food Plot Guidelines



## Plan Ahead for Success

Soil analysis is the first step toward a successful food plot that will be an excellent source of food throughout the year. Proper fertilization and pH levels not only improve the quality of your planting, but also increase its hardiness and persistence. AgSource Laboratories' Food Plot Soil Analysis Kit determines soil nutrient levels and provides written recommendations for lime and specific fertilizer applications necessary for healthy plant growth.

While nutrient deficient soils result in weak and stunted plants, over-application can be detrimental as well. Professional soil analysis is the only way to measure and adjust nutrient levels to ensure a healthy plot.

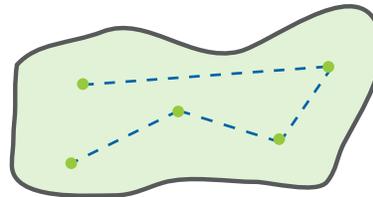
Proper pH levels are also important and can vary depending on the type of plant. Lime is added to raise soil pH, which affects the availability of soil nutrients. To be most effective, lime should be incorporated thoroughly in the top six inches of soil several months before planting. If this is not possible, disk fertilizer and lime into soil at the time of seedbed preparation. For established plots, surface-apply early enough to allow adequate time to neutralize soil acidity.

## Taking Soil Samples

- **Where:** Plots from one to five acres in size can be sampled as one field.
- Divide larger plots of more than five acres into smaller ones.
- Sample taken within each unique area should be mixed together to form a composite sample.
- Do not mix samples from different areas.
- Take separate samples from areas with varying soil types or different plant/crop species.

## How To Take a Soil Sample

- 1 Use a soil probe, a garden trowel or a small spade.
- 2 Walk in a zig-zag pattern through the sampling area.
- 3 Take 15 to 20 random samples to the depth of tillage, usually five to seven inches deep.
- 4 Remove all grass, debris and other materials from the soil sample.
- 5 Place all the core samples in a bucket and mix together to form the composite sample.
- 6 Remove enough soil from the composite sample to fill the soil sample bag.



## Shipping Instructions

- 1 Label the soil samples with your name and identify the sample.
- 2 Insert soil sample bag(s) into mailer container.
- 3 Complete the entire Wildlife Food Plot Soil Information sheet.
- 4 Enclose Wildlife Food Plot Soil Sample Submission Form in mailing container.
- 5 **Send to:**  
AgSource Laboratories  
Wildlife Food Plot  
PO Box 7  
Bonduel, WI 54107

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