

Dropping Off Samples

Samples with submission forms can also be dropped off to 3131 Ingersoll Hall, Dept. of Geology Office during *business hours*; please let us know via email or phone before doing so.

When and How Do I Get Results Back?

Results are usually emailed to customers within 14 business days *after receipt* of soil samples. Multiple samples generally will not require extra time but if multiple tests are requested the process may take up to 21 business days.

Express service is available with results delivered within 7 business days of *receipt of soil* but an additional surcharge of 50% will apply.

Who Should I Contact if I Have Additional Questions?

Please visit our website for more information. Feel free to email soil@brooklyn.cuny.edu regarding the progress of sample analysis. If further assistance is needed, the best contact method is to email soil@brooklyn.cuny.edu. Alternatively, a message can be left at (718) 951-5000, ext. 2647 – please be sure to clearly state your name and return phone number. Calls will be returned as soon as possible.



Brooklyn College
Environmental Sciences Analytical Center
Department of Geology
2900 Bedford Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11210
(718) 951-5000, ext. 2647



SOIL TESTING

Environmental Sciences
Analytical Center
@ Brooklyn College



(718) 951-5000 ext. 2647
soil@brooklyn.cuny.edu
[Http://testmysoil.brooklyn.edu/](http://testmysoil.brooklyn.edu/)

Why Test Your Soil?

For a healthier and more productive garden, start with a soil test. Urban soils are often contaminated - knowing the levels of contaminants in soil can help you make better decisions to protect the health of you and your family. Testing your soil also allows you to select the right plants for your garden and monitor the levels of



nutrients (such as nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium) that are all essential for optimum plant growth, color and blooms. A

pH test, for example, determines how acid/alkaline your soil is. You can then pick plants that will survive and thrive in your soil conditions. Soil problems, when checked by soil tests, can usually be remedied by simple measures.

Our Analytical Services

Our affordable fees are part of Brooklyn College's commitment to our community and public service. The data obtained is research grade; standards for the facility and instrumentation are rigorously controlled and maintained to ensure consistency and quality results.

Types of Tests Offered

- **Toxic Metals**

Samples are analyzed for five toxic metals: lead (Pb), chromium (Cr), arsenic (As), cadmium (Cd) and nickel (Ni). Mercury (Hg). Other metals can also be analyzed if requested.

- **Standard Nutrients**

(Modified Morgan method). Samples are analyzed for major and micro nutrients including: calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), manganese (Mn), copper (Cu), zinc (Zn) and iron (Fe).

- **Soil pH**

The pH is determined using a 1:1, V:V method.

- **Soluble Salts**

Total soluble salts is determined using a 1:2, V:V electrical conductivity method.

- **Organic Matter Content**

The percent of organic matter (humus) in soil or compost is determined by the loss on ignition.

- **Soil Textural Analysis**

Soils are categorized according to USDA soil textural classifications.

- **Basic N-P-K Analysis**

N-P-K kits assign the levels of nutrients.

- **Heavy Metals in Vegetables, Fruits & Herbs**

Five toxic metals (Pb, Cr, As, Cd and Ni) are analyzed using acid digestion, ICP-MS method.

For updated list and pricing, check our website.

How do I Collect Samples?

1. Use a spade or trowel to take small samples of soil from 10 or more random, evenly distributed spots and place in a *clean* container. For very small areas, take a minimum of three spots. Sampling depth should be 3-4" for a grass lawn, and 6-8" if other plants are to be grown in the tested location.
2. Thoroughly mix the soil in the container. Remove pebbles, leaves & plant roots. Transfer about one cup of the soil (~0.5 lb) into a plastic bag and seal. Don't overfill the bag; it may burst if mailed in an envelope. If samples are wet, dry them at room temperature for 1-2 days before mailing. Do not dry samples on a stove or radiator as heat can compromise the testing results.

How do I Submit Samples?

Send a message to soil@brooklyn.cuny.edu that you will be submitting a soil sample(s), a submission form with an ID number will be emailed to you. Multiple samples will each get their own individual ID numbers. Please label your sample(s) with the ID number, fill in the form and email it back to us. This will help us track your sample and ensures all information is accurate.

Place each sample in individual plastic bags with its own sample submission form. Your shipping or mailing package should include a check or money order made to "BC Member Organization".

Mail to: Dr. Joshua Cheng
Brooklyn College
ESAC, Dept of Geology
2900 Bedford Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11210