

Thank you for reaching out to the University of Wisconsin Madison Division of Extension with your question on soil sampling.

For soil testing in Wisconsin, the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) provides a list of certified laboratories [here](#).

If you need soil test data for a nutrient management plan or are planning on using University of Wisconsin publication A2809 Nutrient Application Guidelines for Field, Vegetable, and Fruit Crops in Wisconsin, verify with the lab that the Bray 1 extraction method for phosphorus and potassium will be used and that the data will be contained in the report. In-state labs typically use this method, but out-of-state labs may use different extraction methods that do not match University of Wisconsin-Madison recommendations and state of Wisconsin regulations.

To take a soil test for a farm field in Wisconsin:

- **Plan Your Sampling:** Collect soil samples in a "W" pattern across the field, avoiding areas like fence rows or old manure piles.
- **Collect Soil Cores:** Use a soil probe to take at least 10 cores from representative areas of the field. A maximum of 5 acres are represented per sample. Sampling depth should be at least 6 inches or to the same depth as the field is tilled. Dead furrows, lime, sludge, or manure piles, animal droppings, fence rows, banded fertilizer, eroded knolls, low spots, headlands, and where stalks or large bales were staked should be avoided.
- **Mix and Bag Samples:** Combine the cores in a clean plastic bucket, mix thoroughly, and place the composite sample in a labeled bag. Write sample locations with the same label used on the sampling bags on a farm map and keep a copy of this in a safe location to match the results data with the fields.
- **Submit Samples:** Send the samples to a DATCP-certified lab with a completed submission form.

For more detailed instructions, you can refer to resources provided by the University of Wisconsin Extension found [here](#)

A video on collecting soil samples is available [here](#).

If you require additional information or have further follow up questions, please reach back out.

Thanks, and have a great day.