

### ***Introduction***

The first step to growing a beautiful lawn, flowerbed, or a successful garden is to develop a sound fertilizer program. This will ensure your plants get the nutrition they need for proper growth and development. The best way to build a fertilization program is to first inventory the soils nutrient reserves. This objective can be achieved by sending a sample of your soil to a laboratory. They will analyze the soil to determine what, if any, additions of fertilizer or lime are necessary to produce a pleasing landscape or bountiful harvest.

### ***Sample Collection Procedure***

A quality soil test demands that samples submitted be representative of the area of interest. Lawns, flowerbeds, and gardens should all be sampled separately.

Samples should be taken with a garden trowel or a soil probe. Local customers can borrow a soil probe provided by Litchfield Analytical Services (LAS) free of charge. Lawn samples should be taken at a depth of 3 inches while garden and flowerbed samples should be taken to a depth of 6 inches. Take 15 to 20 sample cores and mix them together thoroughly in a plastic bucket. A metal bucket will contaminate the sample with unusually high levels of zinc. After mixing, remove approximately one cup of soil from the bucket and place it in the soil sample bag provided. Fold over the top of the soil bag, using the metal tabs

to hold the sample securely during shipment. It is important to note what kind of sample you are submitting on the soil analysis information sheet.

### ***Mailing the Sample***

Place your soil sample in the pre-addressed mailing envelope provided. Be sure to include your completed "Soil Analysis Information Form" and payment. Place the appropriate postage on the mailing envelope, drop it in the mail and *Relax*. You will receive your soil analysis results back in the mail within 10 days.

### ***Interpretation of Results***

Lab Analysis results will be generated on an easy to read report. Results will include Organic Matter Percent, Available Phosphate (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>), Exchangeable Potassium (K<sub>2</sub>O), Calcium (Ca), Magnesium (Mg), Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC), and Percent Base Saturation. The report will list the available nutrients in your soil, the optimum level for the type of plants that you are growing, and the amount of fertilizer nutrients, if any which should be added. The report will also display your soil's pH (measure of acidity) as well as the type and quantity of any recommended additions of lime.

### ***Advantages of Using Litchfield Analytical Services***

We utilize the most modern laboratory methods available. Our staff is trained and experienced in soil testing procedures, which ensures you accurate and consistent results. Sample analysis will be completed within 3 days of receipt for dry of samples. Results can be reported by Email, phone or fax upon customer request.

Compare our turn-around time, the quality of the tests that you receive, and our very competitive rates. We are sure that you will want to place your soil analysis work in our experienced hands. Our goal is to provide you with quality laboratory services at competitive rates.

***Thank You***

***and***

***Good Growing!!!***