

# Bring us your dirt!



**Don't guess....Soil test!**

## FREE LAWN SOIL TESTING

**April 23, 2005**

**9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

*(Courtesy of the Huron River Watershed Council)*

Now is the time when property owners long to get out to enjoy warmer temperatures, and get that grass growing green. While nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and other nutrients are necessary for a healthy lawn, over-application of fertilizers wastes money, ruins plants, and pollutes water. In our area, that water includes the Kalamazoo River, its tributaries and our numerous lakes.

**Soil testing** is a first step in determining what your lawn needs for optimum health and growth. **It's easy!** Just follow these directions.

1. Using a clean trowel and a pail, collect ten representative soil samples from your lawn.
2. For each sample, remove a trowel-full of soil that extends seven inches below the surface. *(Do not include roots, thatch, plant materials, rocks or gravel in the sample.)* Mix the ten soil samples together in the pail.
3. Place 1 cup of the well-mixed soil in a clean plastic bag or container. Dry or damp soil is okay, but soggy soil should be allowed to air dry.
4. Take your soil to one of the testing sites listed below.

**ONLY ONE SOIL SAMPLE PER PERSON, PLEASE!**

**Keep your lawn green and your water clean!**

<b>PARTICIPATING RETAILERS AND TEST SITES (Call 269-966-0712 for more information.)</b>			
Albion	Jolly Green Junction	Allegan/Otsego	•Allegan County Area Technical and Education Center
Battle Creek Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Battle Creek Farm Bureau, Battle Creek Store</li> <li>• Bedford Township Hall</li> <li>• Binder Park Zoo</li> <li>• Kellogg Community College</li> <li>• Lakeview Hardware</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scooters Hardware</li> <li>• Southern Exposure</li> <li>• Springfield Landscape Material</li> <li>• Struble's Hardware</li> </ul>	
Charlotte	Eaton Farm Bureau	Delton	Delton Floral and Greenhouse
Fennville	Huntree Nursery	Homer	Homer FFA Land Lab
Kalamazoo Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farm N Garden</li> <li>• Kalamazoo Valley Plant Growers Co-op (Comstock)</li> </ul>	Marshall	Darling's Hardware
Olivet	Olivet High School	Plainwell	CC Supply
Portage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lowe's</li> <li>• Schrier Park</li> </ul>	Richland	Richland Hardware

**Area retailers in partnership sponsor this free soil testing day with a broad coalition of citizen groups, business and industry, state and local agencies and educational institutions interested in protection and restoration of the water quality of the Kalamazoo River Watershed.**