

NOTICE TO CONNECTICUT CITIZENS

CAES Valley Laboratory - Soil Testing Relocation

Beginning in March 2026, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Valley Laboratory in Windsor (VL), will undergo renovation and new construction. Upon groundbreaking on March 31st, soil testing services for the Valley Laboratory will be performed at our New Haven facility. During the renovation and construction phase, soil samples can be dropped off at the designated area at Valley Laboratory. The designated area will be for soil samples only. All soil samples dropped in Windsor will be brought to New Haven for testing.

During VL's renovation and construction period, soil samples can be submitted in Windsor during our normal hours of operation (8:30 AM to 4:30 PM). There will be no drop box available after-hours. Sending soil samples in the mail is not recommended during peak times, as soil samples accumulate very quickly during the spring and fall. If soil samples must be mailed to Valley Laboratory, please use our street address (153 Cook Hill Rd, Windsor, CT 06095). We will not be available to regularly check the Post Office box.

Valley Laboratory soil reports will be emailed when an email address is provided with a corresponding soil submission form. If no email address is provided, VL soil reports are sent via US mail. During the remodeling and new construction phase at Valley Laboratory, turnaround times for soil reports are 1–5 weeks.

The soil laboratory is committed to getting results as quickly as possible for Connecticut citizens. To expedite soil reports, *all inquiries unrelated to soil testing* must contact the Information and Diagnostic Office for the best service.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this transition!

FAQ's

How much soil is required for soil testing?

- At least one pint of soil is suitable for routine soil tests.

How much is the cost of soil testing?

- Soil testing is a free service for CT citizens.

Does the soil lab test soil for pesticides or contaminants?

- No. CAES soil labs perform pH and nutrient analysis of soils and determine limestone and fertilizer suggestions based upon test results.

Where is the soil drop-off location in Windsor?

- There will be signs posted at Valley Laboratory directing traffic to the designated area for soil sample submission.

What is the turnaround time for soil testing results?

- Turnaround times are 1-5 weeks.

What is the procedure for dropping off soil samples in Windsor?

- Use the soil submission form to submit soil samples for soil testing.
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/caes/soil-office/interactivesubmissionform_windsor.pdf?rev=fd7bea27d40a44e29e3bb48f0ce43b92&hash=6B7CFB80EDCC31337A377B01CD0E3BD3
- Soil sample submission forms are available on-site as well as on our website.
 1. Complete soil sample submission form with your contact information: name, mailing address, email address, and phone number.
 2. Please list each sample for submission and indicate sample description under “comments” to distinguish among multiple samples.
 3. For each sample submitted, please indicate the crop to be grown, (turfgrass, vegetables etc.)
 4. Leave “Sample ID” column blank for laboratory number assignment.

- Label the soil sample on the outside of the container with corresponding information indicated on soil submission form such as last name and sample name. Please, NO labels directly in soil.
- Avoid excess tape and staples when packaging soil samples.
- Keep sample containers dry so labels are legible for the soil lab.
- Leave soil samples with your completed submission form in the designated soil sample submission area.

How to submit multiple soil samples?

- If there are more than 30 soil samples, please email Diane.Riddle@ct.gov or call ahead: 860-683-4977 ext. 2
- Keep multiple soil samples together with your completed sample submission form inside a dry, sealed, large bag or box.
- Completed submission forms result in quicker turnaround times, particularly with multiple soil samples. Please list every sample on the soil submission form with crop and sample name. Priority will be given to this protocol to expedite soil reports.
- Leave only soil samples in designated area. All other samples must go to the Diagnostic and Information Office.

Soil Sampling Instructions

1. For each area to be tested, submit representative samples by removing 10–20 narrow slices or cores of soil (use a garden trowel or other sampling device). Mix slices or cores together thoroughly in a bucket or other container and place 2 cups of the mixture in a sealable, waterproof container. If more than one area is sampled, repeat this procedure for each area. If samples are wet, let them dry before packaging.

2. Sampling depths. For lawns, Christmas tree plantations and field grown woody plants, sample the upper 0-4 inches of soil. For gardens, landscape plantings and commercial row crop production fields, sample the upper 0-6 inches of soil. For plants grown in containers, sample the entire depth of the potting media.
3. Label each sample with an identifying name and location or crop to ensure that results are recognizable.
4. Deliver samples according to the instructions listed above.

VL Soil Laboratory Contact Information

CAES Valley Laboratory Soil Testing

Attn: Diane Riddle

153 Cook Hill Rd.

Windsor CT 06095

Diane.Riddle@ct.gov (preferred)

860-683-4977 ext. 2