

SECTION I. Date received by county _____ Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone Number _____ Owner's Sample Identification _____	Lab Use Only: County Use Only: <table style="width:100%; border: 1px solid black;"> <tr> <td style="width:25%; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width:25%; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width:25%; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width:25%; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">County Code</td> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">County Sample #</td> </tr> </table>					County Code	County Sample #		
County Code	County Sample #								

SECTION II. CROP Mark (x) One <p style="text-align: center;">Bedding Plants / Transplants</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetables <input type="checkbox"/> Flowers <p style="text-align: center;">Vegetables</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Cucumbers <input type="checkbox"/> Lettuce <input type="checkbox"/> Tomato <input type="checkbox"/> Other vegetables _____ <p style="text-align: center;">Flowers</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Chrysanthemums <input type="checkbox"/> Herbaceous perennials _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Annuals _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Foliage plants _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Poinsettias <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <p style="text-align: center;">Woody Landscape Plants</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Deciduous trees _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen trees _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Flowering trees _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Deciduous shrubs _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen shrubs _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Ground covers _____ _____	SECTION III. TYPE OF GROWING MEDIUM Mark (x) where appropriate <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Mix _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Custom Mix Pine bark _____% Peat _____% Vermiculite _____% Perlite _____% Coarse sand _____% Expanded shade _____% Hardwood bark _____% Compost _____% Other _____%	Billing Code (Lab Use Only) SECTION VI. PLANT DESCRIPTION <input type="checkbox"/> Normal growth <input type="checkbox"/> Stunted growth <input type="checkbox"/> Weak or damaged roots <input type="checkbox"/> Yellowing of lower leaves <input type="checkbox"/> Yellowing of new leaves <input type="checkbox"/> Scorched leaf margins <input type="checkbox"/> Other, describe _____
<p style="text-align: center;">SECTION IV. STAGE OF PLANT DEVELOPMENT</p> Mark (x) One <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-plant <input type="checkbox"/> Seedling or freshly planted <input type="checkbox"/> ___ weeks after transplanting <input type="checkbox"/> ___ months after transplanting <input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify _____	<p style="text-align: center;">SECTION V. SIZE OF CONTAINER OR RAISED BED</p> Mark (x) One <input type="checkbox"/> Plug tray; ___ count per tray <input type="checkbox"/> Cell pack; ___ count per flat <input type="checkbox"/> ___ inch container <input type="checkbox"/> Above-ground container nursery production _____ gallon container <input type="checkbox"/> Pot-in-Pot production _____ gallon container <input type="checkbox"/> Raised bench _____ Width (inches) _____ Depth (inches) _____ Length (feet) <input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify _____	<p style="text-align: center;">SECTION VII. FERTILIZER & LIME APPLIED</p> Mark (x) where appropriate <input type="checkbox"/> Liquid application (injector) <input type="checkbox"/> Constant <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ Analysis: _____ Rate: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Slow-release application Brand: _____ Analysis: _____ Rate: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other commercial fertilizer <input type="checkbox"/> Superphosphate <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ Kind: _____ Analysis: _____ Rate: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ Kind: _____ Analysis: _____ Rate: _____ Liming material used <input type="checkbox"/> Dolomitic limestone <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural limestone <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ Rate: _____

Soilless Media Test OVERVIEW and INSTRUCTIONS

Overview

The soilless media test is intended for use with growth media appropriate for greenhouse or nursery crop production in containers or raised benches with limited volume. This test is not appropriate for field soil. Field soil is typically not included in growth media for these systems, nor is it recommended. If you wish to test field soil, with or without organic amendments, request a routine soil test at your County Extension Office.

Parameters measured in the soilless media test include pH, soluble salts (electrical conductivity), water-soluble nitrate-N, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sodium, boron, iron, manganese, copper, and zinc using a saturated media extract procedure. Samples may be taken from a current crop or from bulk media before use.

Samples must be submitted through your County Extension Office in bags/boxes provided by Cooperative Extension. Please provide complete information on the attached form. The more information that is provided, the more detailed the response can be.

Completing the Form

- Section I. County Extension Office will record the date received.
Print name, address and telephone number.
For the Owner's Sample Identification – enter any combination of numbers and letters that will identify the sample, such as MUMS, CUC1, CUC2, etc.
- Section II. Mark (x) the box for the crop for which a recommendation is desired. If “other”, please write in the name of the crop.
- Section III. Mark (x) the box or boxes that best describe your plant growth medium and add more detail as available.
- Section IV. Mark (x) the box describing the stage of crop production.
- Section V. Mark (x) the box for the size of container or bed.
- Section VI. Mark (x) the box that best describes the crop plant at the time of media sampling.
- Section VII. Mark (x) the appropriate box that best describes your fertilizer program and lime application. Provide as much specific information as possible about the kind of fertilizer and the rate.

Taking a Sample

Growth media samples should be representative of the bed or bench of a given crop. A sampling strategy should consider crop species, planting time, container size and environmental parameters such as shading, location in a greenhouse or nursery bed, etc. Ideally, a sample should be taken from plants representing each of the possible variations in these factors. However, circumstances may not allow crop management to differ with each of these variations. Therefore, it is best to select several subsamples from plants that will be managed as a block and submit a composite sample. Samples may be taken from bulk media before the crop is planted to determine beginning status.

Collect 6 to 8 subsamples from several locations in beds or from 6 to 8 representative containers in a block. Each of these subsamples should include the growth medium from the whole root zone from the surface to the bottom of the raised bed or container. This is necessary because the soluble salts and other parameters can differ with depth in a container or bed. Thoroughly mix the subsamples together to create a pooled sample and take two pints of the mixture as your sample. Two pints will fill two sample bags obtained from your County Extension Office. Mark the sample with an owner ID.

Sampling time should also be considered relative to recent management activities or environmental events such as rainfall. If a crop is receiving routine liquid fertilization, it is generally accepted to wait four to six hours after the application before sampling.