Taking a Soil Sample

Today on Gardening in a Minute: taking a soil sample.

Whether you’re deciding what to plant or just doing some troubleshooting, you should get your soil tested.

A soil test can tell you either what nutrients your soil contains, or what the pH of your soil is. Soil pH affects which nutrients a plant can get from the soil.

You can take a sample from a limited area, like a bed or small garden, or, for a large area, like a lawn, you can take samples from multiple locations to get an average reading.

Detailed directions come with a soil sample kit, which you can get from your county Extension office or from the IFAS Extension soil testing laboratory.

Within a few weeks, you’ll get the results and you’ll be able to make smart plant and fertilizer choices!

For more information about this and many other gardening topics, contact your county extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.