

# mini Soil pH Tester

## PREPARATION

### The soil sample

Remove the top 2" of the surface soil. Break up and crumble the soil underneath to a depth of 5". Remove any stones or organic debris. Thoroughly wet the soil with water (ideally rainwater) to a mud consistency.

### The probe

Using the specially supplied cleaning pad, lightly shine 4" - 5" of the probe avoiding the bullet shaped tip. Wipe clean using a cotton cloth or tissue.

## TAKING A SOIL pH READING

1. Push the meter probe vertically into the moistened soil to a depth of 4"-5".
2. Twist the probe between your fingers several times to ensure that wet soil is well distributed over the surface of the probe.
3. If the reading is in the green zones:  
Remove the probe from the soil and wipe any soil particles from the surface of the probe. Reshine the probe and insert back into the soil at a different point.  
Twist the probe 2 or 3 times, as before, and wait 60 seconds before taking the final reading.
4. If the reading is in the orange or red zones:  
Remove the probe from the soil and wipe any particles from the surface of the probe. Do not reshine the probe. Insert the probe back into the soil at a different point.  
Twist the probe 2-3 times between your fingers and wait 60 seconds before taking the final reading.

## ADJUSTING SOIL pH

Material	pH Change	Sandy	Loamy	Clay
Dolomitic or Calcic Limestone	+½ unit (0.5 pH)	2½	5	5½
	+1 unit (1.0 pH)	5	8½	11
Hydrated Lime	+½ unit (0.5 pH)	1½-2	3-4	4-4½
	+1 unit (1.0 pH)	3½-4	6-6½	8-8½
Iron Sulfate	-½ unit (0.5 pH)	¾	1½	2
	-1 unit (1.0 pH)	1½	3	4
Aluminum Sulfate	-½ unit (0.5 pH)	½-¾	1-¼	1½
	-1 unit (1.0 pH)	1-1¼	2¼	3

Amounts listed are pounds per 100 square feet. \*Do not add more than 5 lbs. of lime or 1/2 lb. of sulfur in one application.

## FOR USE IN SOIL ONLY. DO NOT USE IN LIQUIDS!

## PLANT pH PREFERENCES

### Vegetables

Beans	6.0-7.5	Onion	6.0-7.0
Beets	6.0-7.5	Parsnip	5.5-7.5
Broccoli	6.0-7.0	Pea	6.0-7.5
Brussels Sprouts	6.0-7.5	Pepper	5.5-7.0
Cabbage	6.0-7.5	Potato	4.5-6.0
Carrot	5.5-7.0	Radish	6.0-7.0
Cauliflower	5.5-7.5	Rutabaga	5.5-7.5
Celery	6.0-7.0	Spinach	6.0-7.5
Cucumber	5.5-7.0	Squash	6.0-7.5
Leek	6.0-8.0	Tomato	5.5-7.0
Lettuce	6.0-7.0		

### Flowers/Shrubs

Azalea	4.5-6.0	Gladiolus	6.0-7.0
Camellia	4.5-5.5	Hydrangea (blue)	4.0-5.0
Carnation	6.0-7.0	Hydrangea (pink)	6.0-7.0
Clematis	5.5-7.0	Hydrangea (white)	6.5-7.0
Daffodil	6.0-6.5	Magnolia	5.0-6.0
Dahlia	6.0-7.5	Primula	6.0-7.5
Erica	4.5-6.0	Rhododendron	4.5-6.0
Fuschia	5.5-6.5	Rose	6.0-7.0
Geranium	6.0-7.5		

### Fruit

Blackberry	5.0-6.0	Melon	5.5-6.5
Cherry	6.0-7.5	Peach	6.0-7.5
Currant (black)	6.0-8.0	Raspberry	5.0-6.5
Currant (red)	5.5-7.0	Rhubarb	5.5-7.0
Gooseberry	5.0-6.5	Strawberry	5.0-7.5
Grapevine	6.0-7.0	Lawns	6.0-7.5
Lemon	6.0-7.0		

Luster Leaf Products, Inc.  
2220 Techcourt  
Woodstock, IL 60098

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