



BLOSSOM Organic Garden Store



4711 Black Lake Blvd SW, Olympia, Washington (360) 943-5670
Organic Growing Supplies for the Maritime Northwest

Garden Information Leaflet (GIL) No. 9

**“DOING IT RIGHT”
THE MINERAL-AUGMENTED ORGANIC WAY
*The Only Way to Grow!***

Soil Testing Services

We at BLOSSOM Consulting Services are increasingly convinced that soil testing is essential to gardening success, especially for food gardeners desiring to have high production of nutritionally complete crops. Every serious gardener should have a professional soil test conducted to determine what soil nutrients are not needed (and could even be detrimental, if added), and which nutrients, in what quantities, are needed for optimum fertility. It is most likely that savings in fertilizer purchases, as well as errors avoided, will more than offset costs of the testing. The fee is \$50.00 per test.

BLOSSOM Consulting Services are based on results of professional laboratory analysis performed by Logan Labs LLC of Lakeview, Ohio, which uses testing procedures designed for ecological farming and gardening based on research of Dr. William A. Albrecht, former Chairman of the Soils Department of the University of Missouri. We provide interpretations and recommendations geared to minerally-augmented organic methods developed at BLOSSOM Organic Garden Store.

We offer a complete professional soil test with qualitative organic evaluations of laboratory report results and quantitative recommendations for organic/natural material applications.

Laboratory test parameters include the following:

Organic matter (%); pH of soil sample; exchange capacity (M.E.); sulfur (S in ppm); phosphorus (as P₂O₅ in lbs./acre); calcium (Ca in lbs./acre); magnesium (Mg in lbs./acre); potassium (K in lbs./acre); sodium (Na in lbs./acre; other base elements (trace elements, variable in percent); exchangeable hydrogen (H in percent of base saturation); boron (B in ppm); iron (Fe in ppm); manganese (Mn in ppm); copper (Cu in ppm); zinc (Zn in ppm); aluminum (Al in ppm, non-nutrient). Also given are optimum percentages of key cation nutrients (Ca, Mg, K, and Na).

Procedures: BLOSSOM Consulting Services provides sample bags and precise, written instructions on taking samples. It is extremely important that samples be taken as instructed. In lieu of sample bags, you may bring samples to us in plastic sandwich bags or zip-lock bags. Instructions and a questionnaire are available at BLOSSOM Consulting, at BLOSSOM Organic Garden Store, or on the BlossomEra.com website or request that they be sent to you.

BLOSSOM Consulting will provide a flat-rate mailer envelope with the lab address and a work-order sheet required by the lab. Your sample (or samples) is placed in the envelope and sealed.

Results of the lab test will be emailed to BLOSSOM Consulting within about one week, and you will be notified by phone or email. A copy of the lab report will be furnished to you when you arrive at BLOSSOM Consulting to pick up your complete report, including the write-up evaluation and recommendations we provide.

In addition to the written report, we will provide a brief verbal explanation of the results and recommendations, which will identify the recommended fertilizer materials and amounts prescribed to bring your garden into balanced optimal fertility. Generally, it is recommended that testing be repeated in four years.