Soil Testing

Fall is the time for soil testing and making additions to your soil for next year.

There are many great soil test labs, however we recommend Western Labs in Pharma, Idaho because of their years of testing and recommendations for Atlantic Giant pumpkins specifically.

We recommend their $55 test. They have a tremendous amount of information on their website under results/tutorials.

Another great lab is A & L Great Lakes in Fort Wayne, IN.

Team Pumpkin has a great excel spreadsheet to help you determine the quantity of soil amendments to apply.

If you have an official soil test probe, that’s great, however not necessary. You need to collect about a cup of your soil for testing.

You can collect a sample with a shovel. Clean your shovel. Go to your patch and put your shovel in the ground like you are going to take a scoop out. Next just push your shovel forward, creating a gap. Take your shovel out and take a small sliver of soil out behind the gap. ¼ - 1/2 in. Put the sample in a clean bucket. Take several samples around your patch and mix in the bucket. When the sample is completely dry, a week or so, mix it again and send one cup as a sample to your soil test lab.

For the quickest, cheapest and easiest way, find a local Ag co-op or other fertilizer plant. Ceres solutions, Co-Alliance or any local supplier. Go visit them. They can likely loan you a soil test probe (run home with it, sample and get it back to them) and will have bags to put your sample in. Take your sample back to them for a soil test with micro-nutrients. $10-$15. It will give you the most important information you need to get started: pH, N, P, K and micro-nutrients.

Here is an actual soil test result from Western Labs from 2019: West central Indiana.