

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. $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ 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](#)