Winter 2026

Soil Tests: The Results that Get Results

Even if you think you know what a farm's spring fertilizer program should look like, soil testing can make sure the right rate is applied and the right nutrients are being addressed. These tests show what the field needs to support a successful yield. Best done in the fall after harvest or in the late winter ahead of any fieldwork, soil tests are a critical part of planning.

Last year's harvest will have removed nutrients from the soil, and if the field was a high-yielding one last year, then more nutrients will need to be replaced. What's important any year, but perhaps especially in environments such as today's, is to have a plan supported by actual data and information. Soil testing can guide decision making when it comes to inputs and staying within a farm's operating budget.

Results from soil tests will show the nutrients already in the soil, including nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. You can also get a look at the micronutrients such as boron, copper, manganese and others. In addition, a soil test can include information about the amount of organic matter in the soil. Organic matter can give us an idea of the soil structure, the water holding capacity and nutrient availability, so it's a helpful data point to have as well. At SoilBiotics, we take all of this information along with the grower's goals and operating budget to build a plan to improve the soil to support an improved crop that yields.

If you're looking for an accurate, reliable soil testing lab, SoilBiotics recommends Ingram's Soil Testing Center. But no matter where you send soil samples, you're welcome to bring results to SoilBiotics for a review and to help build out a nutrient program for the coming growing season.

Here's an article from Farm Progress giving a little perspective:

https://www.farmprogress.com/crops/when-fertilizer-costs-rise-and-crop-prices-fall-should-you-cut-back-on-p-and-k-applications?utm_rid=CPG02000179714122&utm_campaign=102483&utm_medium=email&elq2=1927394283e5414785ab3a892a0cd79c&sp_eh=274189af2ccb711153ec3fb2e11c02493140fba97314e626dcdb1021d98b5e11

Make the Most of Plant Matter with DgradeR

Crop residue from last fall and cover crops can provide needed nutrients for this year's crop throughout the growing season. SoilBiotics' **DgradeR** breaks down these plant-based sources to feed the crop throughout the growing season. A liquid product that can be applied via broadcast spray, **DgradeR** is compatible with most fertilizers and herbicides. It contains live microorganisms with Humic Acid to assist with residue breakdown for better crop accessibility.

Features:

Degrades dead plant tissue converting it to valuable organic matter

Breaks down waxy lignins and fats in dead plant residue

Increases organic matter and CEC in the soil

Promotes aeration in the soil for enhanced microbial life

Breaks down residue to reduce disease and insect pressure

It is 100% naturally occurring and non-pathogenic

Benefits:

Mitigates salt in the soil and breaks down cellulose from plant residue

Helps mineralize spring and fall applied dry plant food

Works in the lower rhizosphere of the soil releasing soluble phosphorous for plant uptake

Frees nutrients tied up in the soil, making those nutrients available to the plant for uptake, and will hold nitrogen in the soil

To further enhance fields, **Soil Boost** can be blended with most any fertilizer. This dry Humic product works to improve compaction and work more oxygen into the soil to support crop growth.

Features:

Helps the soil loosen and crumble, increasing aeration of soil as well as soil workability

Prevents soil cracking, and reduces surface water runoff and soil erosion

Increases water holding capacity of soil and helps resist drought

Increases both organic and mineral substances essential to plant growth

Allows the soil to retain water soluble inorganic fertilizers in the root zones and reduces leaching

Has the ability to increase organic matter and CEC in the soil

Increases buffering properties of the soil and can be applied to most soils

Benefits:

Improves the biological structure of the soil by helping to neutralize both acid and alkaline soils which regulate the pH value of the soil

Improves and optimizes the uptake of nitrogen and other nutrients and water by plants

Promotes the conversion of nutrient elements (N, P, K, and trace elements) into forms available to plants

May enhance micronutrient uptake because of the chelating effect

Winter 2026 Specials

PH K 200 can be applied pre-plant and post-emergence to help the soil loosen and crumble and increase aeration and workability of soil. This spring SoilBiotics is offering $20 off per half ton or $40 per full ton pallets only of **PH K 200** for orders placed in March and shipped by April 30.

SoilBiotics Soil Amendments, including **Growth Boost**, **Organic Growth Boost**, and **Growth Supplement 30**, harness humates' ability to bond with nutrients in the soil to enhance nutrient absorption by the plant. This spring get 3% off Growth Boost, Organic Growth Boost, and Growth Supplement 30 for orders placed March and April, shipped before May 30 regardless of order size and packaging – pail, drum, tote.