

Many Florida soils are naturally high in phosphorus. Turfgrass has a low phosphorus requirement, so additional phosphorus applications are not typically required. Phosphorus deficient landscape plants may have symptoms on the oldest leaves showing a reddish color or reddish veins on the underside of a dark green leaf. Symptoms may also include stunting of the plant.

To determine if you potentially have a phosphorus deficient plant, please use this diagnostic key:

<http://hort.ufl.edu/database/nutdef/index.shtml>

Phosphorus deficiency testing can be done with a soil test or with a tissue test. Soil testing enables you to find out the makeup of your soil and helps determine fertilizer and lime recommendations. Plant tissue testing is a tool to evaluate the nutrient status of a plant. Soil and tissue testing used in combination is recommended to achieve the most accurate nutrient status of your plant.

## Soil Testing:

- Done at the UF/IFAS Extension Soil Testing Laboratory in Gainesville, FL
- Use this form for complete directions on sample collection and submission:  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/SS/SS18700.pdf>
- Phosphorus testing is done by **Test B. Soil Fertility Test**- \$7 per test
  - o For complete results, do Test A. and Test B.
  - o Test A. pH and Lime Requirement Test, is recommended- \$3 per test
- Place samples in paper bags. Ship in box.
- Results will be mailed/emailed to you 3-6 days after the sample arrives in the lab

## Tissue Testing:

- Done at the UF/IFAS Extension Soil Testing Laboratory in Gainesville, FL
- Use this form for complete directions on sample collection and submission:  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/SS/SS18200.pdf>
- \$10 per sample
- Collect a minimum of two generous handfuls of leaves (living material)
  - o Allow the samples to dry out
  - o Place the dried samples in a paper bag
- Place samples in paper bags. Ship in box.
- Results will be mailed/emailed to you 5-10 days after the sample arrives in the lab

### Ship your samples to:

UF/IFAS Analytical Services Laboratory  
Extension Soil Testing Laboratory  
Wallace Bldg. 631, 2390 Mowry Rd.  
PO Box 110740  
Gainesville, FL 32611-0740

Meet with your Extension Agent for interpretation of results and recommendations:

[www.seminolecountyfl.gov/ExtensionServices](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/ExtensionServices)

For a limited time, UF/IFAS provides free boxes and soil sample bags available for pick up at your local extension office (you are not required to use these, but they are available as a courtesy):

- o 250 West County Home Rd., Sanford, FL 32773
- o 407-665-5560