

## Soil and Water Testing Laboratories

There are numerous products available online and over-the-counter to do-it-yourselfers interested in conducting their own soil analysis. For less than \$20 (as of this update) you can obtain a basic kit that enables you to test your pH, nitrogen, potassium, and potash levels. These products are all fairly similar—the difference in pricing is usually tied to the number of tests the kit provides. Many of these kits include fertilization guides and pH preference lists for common household and backyard plants.

Gardeners can also purchase battery operated probes that measure pH, moisture and fertilizer levels, and sunlight penetration.

Water quality test kits are also available to persons interested in gauging the suitability of their water for drinking and irrigation. Prices vary—one of the most affordable, sold by a bottle water company, allows you to test for pH, nitrates, nitrites, chlorine, chloramine, and low range iron. More comprehensive kits, in the \$40-\$50 range, test for Bacteria, Nitrate, Nitrite, Hydrogen Sulfide, Total Hardness, Total Alkalinity, Total Chlorine, Chlorine, Copper, Sulfate, Iron, and pH. you can also obtain test kits with more focused purposes, such as measuring the levels of lead in your water and the existence or persistence of certain common pesticides.

It should be noted that none of the do-it-yourself kits are as accurate as laboratory analysis of your soil or water.

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The University of California Cooperative Extension has compiled a useful list of soil and water testing labs serving the Central Sierra region. Many of these labs aim their services at large-scale agricultural producers, but the following labs, drawn from that list, may be of particular interest to homeowners.

Sunland Analytical

11419 Sunrise Gold Circle #10

Rancho Cordova, CA 95742

(916) 852-8557

<http://sunland-analytical.com/>

This lab, based in Rancho Cordova, serves large-scale farmers and backyard gardeners. It offers test packages (under \$100) specifically designed for homeowners interested in testing the

suitability of their soil for vegetables, shrubs and flowers. The lab will not visit sites, but its website offers thorough directions on how to gather samples. Results are returned roughly a week after samples are received at the lab. These include soil amendment recommendations as well as test results.

The lab will conduct irrigation water analysis, but does not test drinking water.

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Dellavalle Laboratory, Inc.

1910 W. McKinley Ave

Fresno, CA 93728

(800) 228-9896

(559) 233-6129

<https://dellavallelab.com/>

Dellavalle Lab offers a full range of tests for both water and soil. It is located in Fresno, but has a consultant based in Davis. Soil testing packages frequently used by gardeners are available and come with interpretation guides. Available services and pricing may be found on the website. The turnaround time for soil tests is 7-10 days.

The lab will also test your water for suitability for irrigation and drinking.

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Environmental Micro Analysis

40 N. East St, Suite B

Woodland, CA 95776

530) 666-6890

<http://www.emalab.com/>

Environmental Micro Analysis, Inc. specializes in pesticide residue analysis using methods developed by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

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Delta Environmental Labs

685 Stone Road #12

Benicia, CA 94510

(800) 747-6082

<https://www.deltalabsolutions.com/soil-testing-services/>

This soil and water testing lab offers a range of services to farmers and gardeners focused mainly on pollutants. The company will provide clients with the equipment and instruction needed to collect their own samples for analysis, but will also visit properties to collect samples within a 50 mile radius of their lab in Benicia.

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Denele Analytical, Inc.

40 N. East Street

Woodland, CA 95776

(530) 666-9058

<https://denelelabs.com/>

This comprehensive Yolo County testing lab covers soil, water, fertilizer, and pathology testing aimed at agricultural customers, but also does soil testing for residential gardens. Instructions for sampling and forms for submitting samples are available on their website along with pricing information.

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