

**Suggested Websites  
For Further Study:**

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app>

[http://nrcs.usda.gov/pnw-soil/or\\_data.html](http://nrcs.usda.gov/pnw-soil/or_data.html)

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/em/em8677/>

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Resource Materials: OSU, Extension Service: Nutrient Management Guide EM8677 Rev. 01/2002.  
OSSS pub. "Soil Our Life Support System" pub.08/1975



**Marion Soil & Water Conservation District**  
650 Hawthorne Ave SE, Ste. #130  
Salem, OR 97301-5894  
503.391.9927 Fax 503.399.5799  
Website: [www.marionswcd.net](http://www.marionswcd.net)

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Informational Guide To:

**Soil & Water  
Testing**

Analytical Laboratories Serving Oregon Included



**"Our Life  
Support System"**

*Steps we can all take in keeping this  
essential natural resource healthy...*



## Soils Support All Life



Soil produces food and fiber for all civilization. **If properly cared for, soil will continue to nourish and sustain all of our Earth's inhabitants.**

Soil's most common definition is the ***natural medium in which plants grow***. Like skin, soil is a relatively thin layer, covering our planet's rocky core. Soil is a living, dynamic system at the boundary between bedrock and the atmosphere.

Though Oregon's soil mantle is not uniform, all soils share several common features:

- every soil has **4 major components** - air, water, mineral particles, and organic matter
- every soil occupies space- length, depth and breadth
- every soil has a profile-many layers or "horizons" over loose weathered rock.

Soil forms in response to forces of climate and plant and animal life that act on parent material in a specific place over a long period of time. These five soil-forming factors shape the unique and dynamic character of a soil. As a result, thousands of different soils carpet the United States, and in Oregon alone, hundreds of different soils cover its surface.

### ***Oregon Society of SOIL SCIENTISTS***

Soil scientists are soil stewards who:

- analyze the physical, biological, and chemical properties of soil
- design sustainable soil management action plans
- develop environmental impact statements for multidisciplinary management projects
- implement soil conservation, irrigation, and drainage measures
- evaluate soil capabilities and limitations.

In the State of Oregon, a non-profit organization known as the Oregon Society of Soil Scientists represents soil science professionals.

***Oregon Society of Soil Scientists***

*P.O. Box 2382  
Corvallis, OR 97339*

## ***Analytical Laboratories Serving Oregon***

Soil testing and plant analysis aid commercial growers, gardeners, and homeowners in making decisions about fertilizing or applying soil amendments.

Below mentioned are a few labs of the many labs available, who provide services for Oregon and adjacent areas. MSWCD makes no endorsements by listing a laboratory, conversely, omission of a laboratory does not indicate that it's unsuitable. Another source for locating commercial laboratories in the yellow pages of your local telephone directory and/ or by searching the Web via your internet provider.

### **A & L Western Agricultural Laboratories**

10220 SW Nimbus Ave, Bldg. K-9  
Portland, OR 97223  
**503.968.9225** Fax 503.598.7702

### **Agri-Check, Inc.**

323 Sixth St  
PO Box 1350  
Umatilla, OR 97882  
**541.922.4894** or **800.537.1129**

### **Am-Test, Oregon, LLC**

13035 SW Pacific Hwy  
Portland, OR 97223  
**503.639.9311**

### **Analytical Laboratory and Consultants, Inc.**

361 W 5th Ave  
Eugene, OR 97401 *(several tests are Sub Contracted)*  
**541.485.8404** or **800.262.5973**  
**FAX 541.484.5995** **anlabinc@rio.com**

### **Pacific Agricultural Laboratory**

12505 NW Cornell Rd  
Portland, OR 97229  
**503.626.7943** **FAX 503.641.0644**

