

Free soil test from the Agriculture Branch:

One of the best ways to understand what is going on in your greenhouse or backyard vegetable patch is to get your soil tested. Soil testing is limited to 1 test a year for Yukon gardeners.

Get your garden trowel and a pail. Randomly stick the trowel into the soil 6 to 8 inches deep. Scoop a trowel of dirt into the pail. Do this 8 to 10 times across the garden bed. Mix the soil in the pail. Take out 500 grams (approximately 2 cups) to use as your sample.

Bring or mail the sample to the Agriculture Branch

[Get your soil tested | Government of Yukon](#)

Contact: agriculture@gov.yk.ca or phone 867-667-5838

Soil books at the EMR Library

Murphy, Elizabeth. [Building soil: a down-to-earth approach: natural solutions for better gardens and yards](#). Minneapolis, Cool Springs, 2015. EMR Library call number - S591.M984 2015

Nauta, Phil. [Building soils naturally: innovative methods for organic gardeners](#). Austin, Acres U.S.A., 2012. EMR Library call number - S596.75.N38 2012

Vincent, Wendy. [The complete guide to working with worms: using the gardener's best friend for organic gardening and composting](#). Ocala, Florida, Atlantic Publishing Group, 2012. EMR Library call number - SF597.E3.V56 2012

Fisher, Eric. [Compost teas for the Organic Grower](#). Hampshire, United Kingdom, Permanent Publications, 2019. EMR Library call number - S654.F55 2019

Phillips, Michael. [Mycorrhizal planet: how symbiotic fungi work with roots to support plant health and build soil fertility](#). White River Junction, Vermont, Chelsea Green Publishing, 2017. EMR Library call number - QK604.2.M92 2017

Cummings, Dede. [The organic composting handbook: techniques for a healthy, abundant garden](#). New York: Skyhorse Publishing, 2015. EMR Library call number - S661.C75 2015

Reid, Keith. [Improving your soil: a practical guide to soil management for the serious home gardener](#). Richmond Hill, Ontario: Firefly Books, 2014. EMR Library call number - S591.R45 2014

Lowenfels, Jeff & Wayne Lewis. [Teaming with microbes: the organic gardener's guide to the soil food web](#). Portland, Or. : Timber Press, 2010. EMR Library call number - S591.L59 2010

To borrow any of these books, contact emrlibrary@yukon.ca, call 867-667-3111, or come visit us in person at the EMR Library from Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm. We are located in room 335 of the Elijah Smith Building in downtown Whitehorse.