



Soil and Water Testing Resources

Knowing what is in your soil and water supply is important to creating a productive garden. It also helps you plan what to apply to your soil and in what quantities. Knowing this can help save money and protect our waterways by applying the right amount of nutrients and fertiliser.

Not sure where to start? GeoCatch has prepared this handy guide on soil and water testing.

Step 1: Conduct a basic analysis

A basic analysis involves a simple DIY test to determine the pH of your soil and water.

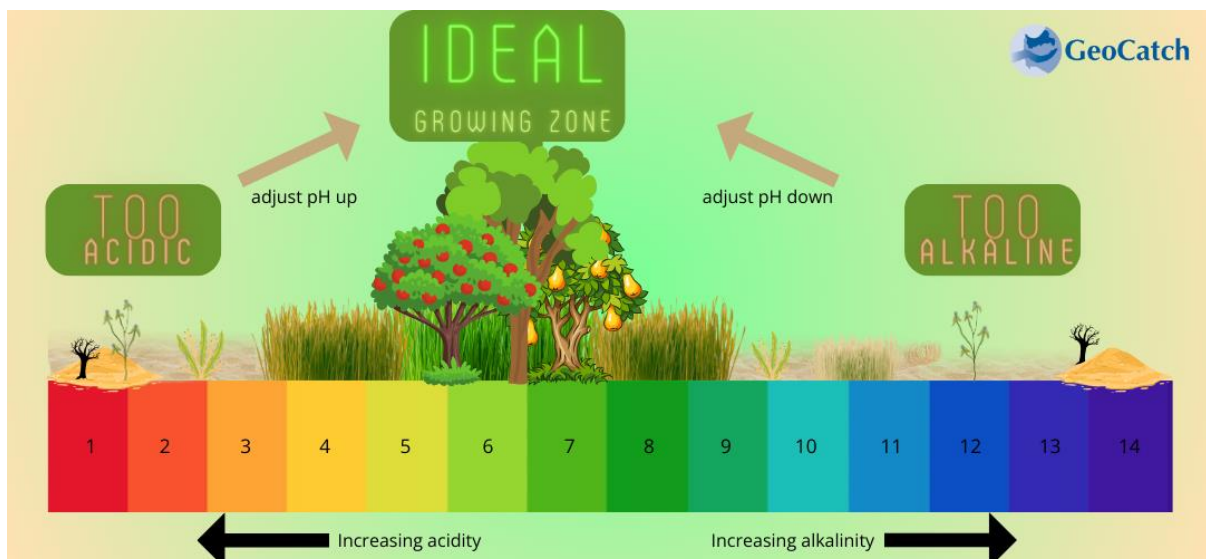
Knowing the pH of your soil and water is important, because if it is too low (acidic) or high (alkaline), plant growth will be affected as nutrients can not be taken up by the plants.

You will need a pH test kit from a local hardware store or garden supply center to perform a pH test. Follow the instructions on the label.

If you have low pH: Add agricultural lime or dolomite. Adding composted poultry manure will also increase the pH.

If you have high pH: Add composted cow and sheep manure, leaf litter and mulch. Iron chelate for plants can also help to increase pH. A small amount of powdered sulphur may be required if pH is very high. Sulphur works slowly, so apply small amounts and monitor over the next 6-12 months. Always follow the label directions.

It is important to check the pH of the water that you are putting on your garden. Town supply water in South West WA and bore water is often alkaline, so watering will tend to increase the soil pH over time.





Step 2: In-depth analysis

If you have done basic pH testing and want to know about your soil and water in more detail, you will need to send a sample to a laboratory to be analysed. A laboratory will be able to give you detailed information on the chemical composition of your soil and water.

The reports that you receive will contain raw data, so you may need specialist help from a soil scientist or agronomist to help you understand the findings.

Suggested laboratories:

- **CSBP**, soil and water testing <https://csbplab.com.au/>
- **ARL Group**, soil and water testing including contaminants and pesticides <https://www.arlgroup.com.au/>
- **Chem Centre**, soil and water testing <https://www.chemcentre.wa.gov.au/>
- **South West Chemical Services**, soil and water testing Phone 08 9795 9821
- **Symbio Laboratories**, soil and water testing including contaminants and pesticides <https://symbiolabs.com.au/services/soil-water-air-testing/>
- **Baileys Fertilisers**, soil testing <https://www.baileysfertiliser.com.au/laboratory-services>
- **Quality H2O Solutions**, water testing <https://www.qualityh2o.com.au/water-testing-and-assessment>
- **Enviro Lab**, soil and water testing <https://www.envirolab.com.au/>
- **Pristine Water Systems**, water testing <https://pristinewatersystems.com.au/margaret-river-south-west>