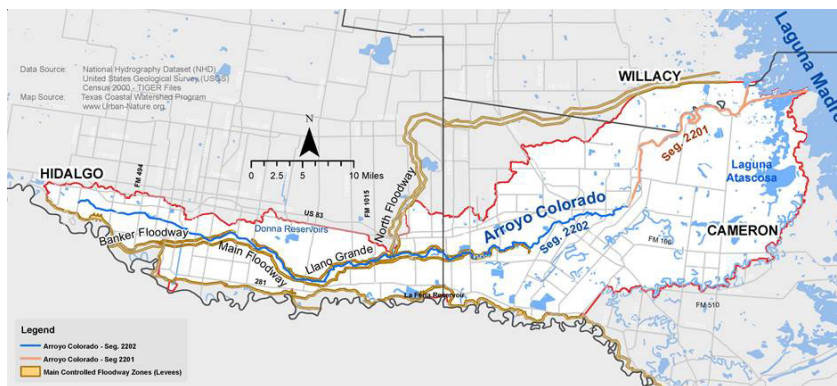


# Benefits of Soil Tests!

Soil testing is a simple tool you can use to help manage fertilizer use, save on input costs, and improve water quality. Soil tests provide up-to-date information on nutrient availability, helping you determine what nutrients your crops need and the amount of fertilizer needed for better yields. If your soil has excess nutrients, you can save money by skipping extra fertilizer.

During rain and irrigation events, water runoff and leaching can carry those nutrients into nearby water resources. No single person is the sole problem. Everyone has a part to play to improve water quality.



*The Arroyo Colorado Watershed*

## Save Money!

Recent studies across Texas highlighted the economic benefits of soil testing and its potential to reduce fertilizer rates and costs.

- In the Texas High Plains, deep soil testing resulted in estimated savings of \$41 – \$149 per acre for corn and up to \$97 per acre for cotton.
- In the Coastal Bend, testing soil to a 24-inch depth showed reduced fertilizer costs by up to \$20 per acre in corn in 2018. At today's fertilizer prices, this will be approximately \$50 per acre in savings.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Am I eligible for free soil testing?

- If you are an agricultural producer in the Arroyo Colorado Watershed, yes!

#### When should I do a soil test?

- Test 3-6 months before any new plantings or fertilizer applications
- Test once a year to track changes in soil health

#### How do I collect a soil sample?

- Take a composite sample every 10 to 40 acres
- Sample from the top 6 inches of your soil
- Remove plants, litter, and roots from your sample
- Repeat 10-15 times randomly in your field
- Mix all 10-15 samples into one composite sample and place in sample bag

#### When will I receive my results?

- Please allow 2-3 weeks before receiving results



Funding provided through an On The Ground Conservation Program grant from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board. Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.

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