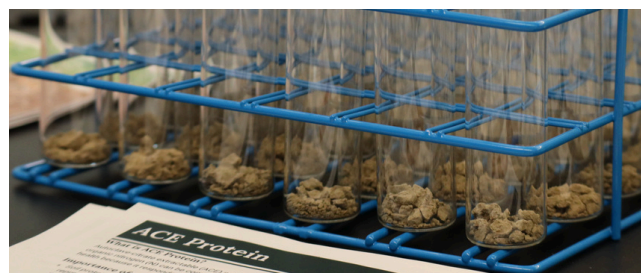


What is SHREC?

The Soil Health Research and Extension Center, or SHREC, is a new center at UVM offering soil health testing services to farmers and gardeners in Vermont and across the region. In addition to soil health testing, SHREC provides applied soil health research results, outreach materials, and educational opportunities throughout the state.



SHREC Testing Services and FAQ

1. Is SHREC different from the existing UVM soil testing lab?

Yes. The Agricultural and Environmental Testing Lab (AETL) is still here to help with routine soil nutrient analysis for both commercial growers and home gardeners. SHREC provides additional soil health testing options for land managers who want to understand more about their soil's physical and biological characteristics and how they respond to management changes.

To learn more, check out the lab websites: AETL: go.uvm.edu/aetl | SHREC: go.uvm.edu/shrec

2. Which soil health tests does SHREC offer? How much do they cost?

Test	Description	Cost
Permanganate oxidizable carbon (POXC)	Measures a pool of organic matter that supports microbial activity and that is responsive to management practices	\$12.50
ACE protein	Measures soil protein, a source of organic nitrogen that can be converted relatively quickly into plant-available forms and is responsive to management practices	\$14.00
Wet aggregate stability	Measures whether soil aggregates will break down when exposed to external forces such as rainfall and tillage.	\$27.00
Respiration	Provides a proxy for biological activity	\$25.00
Total carbon/ total nitrogen	Measures the total amount of carbon and nitrogen in the soil, including the active and relatively inactive pools	\$22.00

A basic soil textural analysis is included with all sample submissions. More information on each test and future test offerings are on the SHREC website.

3. How do I take a soil sample and send it to SHREC?

For several of the tests that SHREC performs, collecting samples to a 6-inch depth with a standard soil probe works fine. However, if you are sending samples for an aggregate stability test, use a narrow shovel to avoid damaging the soil aggregates. One other difference is that soil samples for SHREC need to be kept cool to avoid any negative effects on soil biology. The SHREC website offers more information on how to take a soil sample (go.uvm.edu/shrecsample) and how to submit samples to SHREC (go.uvm.edu/shrecsubmit). The website accepts online credit card payments through a secure link.

4. Why does the SHREC Submission Form ask for management information?

Soil health changes as a direct result of how a field is managed. SHREC collects management information associated with each soil sample to build a robust database of soil health results and how they relate to particular management practices. This information will inform how best to interpret your testing results to achieve and maintain healthy soil.

5. What else does SHREC do?

SHREC will also offer soil health extension activities and programming efforts, including soil health field trials, on-farm demonstrations, educational materials, and events. For example, the 2024 Soil Health Indicator Webinar Series is now available on the SHREC website (go.uvm.edu/shrec). Look for more information on these outreach efforts in the future.