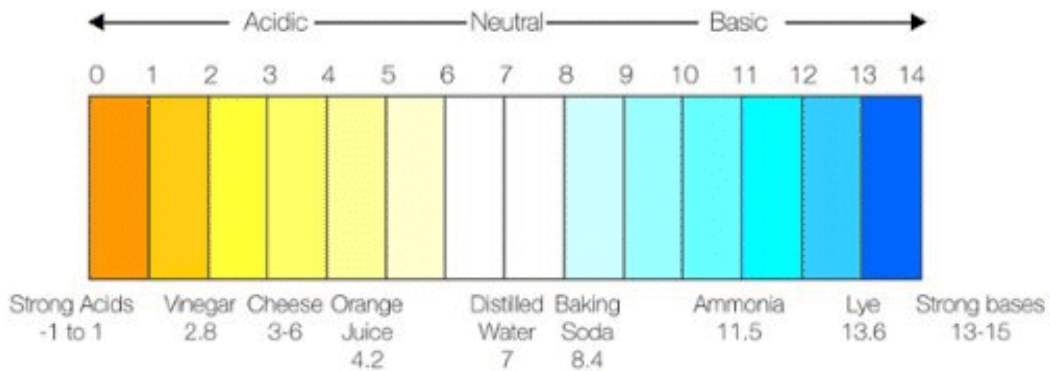


# How to Test Soil pH Using the Slurry Method

by Ken Barbi



Gather some soil for the test. Take the sample and add equal parts of soil and distilled or de-ionized (DI) water in a 1:1 ratio. Stir the sample for 5 seconds. Let it sit for 15 minutes. Start stirring the sample again after 15 minutes, and take your measurement.

## ***pH Chemical Test Kits***

pH chemical test kits are like test strips in that they are easy to use, but also have several drawbacks. Using a soil test kit involves adding your soil, distilled or DI water, and some chemicals (these will be included when you purchase a kit) to a tube. The chemicals, like test strips, react with the pH levels in your sample to create a color change. Also like test strips, the color change of the test kits will be subjective, and readings will vary between different people.

pH test kits have lower resolution, generally between 1 or 0.5 pH points, and tend to test specific ranges of pH. That means you need to buy many kits to test your different types of soil, or when you are just beginning and don't know your starting pH.



The number of tests you perform with a chemical test kit limited to the number of reagents included. Regular kits include enough chemicals for anywhere between 1 and 10 tests. Disposal of these chemicals poses another issue; chemical compositions differ from manufacturer to manufacturer, and many cannot just be poured down the drain or into the trash.