

Cessation of Commercial Testing of Soil and Soil Mix Samples

FAQs

1. Why is NParks discontinuing testing services for soil and soil mix samples for paying customers?

As part of our ongoing efforts to reprioritise laboratory services to better support the NParks' key strategies, our Soil Management Laboratory will be discontinuing soil physical and chemical testing services for paying customers. Our Plant Health Laboratory and Advisory will continue to provide testing soil for plant nematodes and insect pests.

2. Are there private labs who can conduct the testing of physical and chemical properties of soil and soil mix samples?

There are private laboratories that are equipped to conduct the testing services of soil and soil mix samples.

If you wish to have the list of laboratories providing soil and soil mix tests, previously offered by NParks, Soil Management Laboratory, please send request to NParks_PSH_Service_Enquiries@nparks.gov.sg. Please note that the list is not exhaustive, and we encourage customers to assess and select a laboratory that best meets their needs and budget.

3. How were the listed private testing labs selected?

NParks conducted a one-time assessment process to determine if there are commercial laboratories that can perform the relevant soil testing that we have been offering to our customers. Over two phases, which involved us sharing our reference ranges, surveying the local laboratories and screening their test results, we finalised a list of laboratories that can perform the testings required. We also conducted training sessions and shared our SOPs with these laboratories.

4. Do the commercial laboratories follow a similar methodology/protocol for testing?

As mentioned above, as part of the assessment exercise, we visited the shortlisted laboratories, conducted a training session and shared our SOPs with them. The selected private labs also submitted method validation reports with NParks for the new tests.

5. Does NParks assess the capability of the private labs conducting the tests?

An assessment was conducted by NParks which included a two-phased screening and assessment initiative to ensure the laboratory capabilities and testing methods are validated, consistent, and reliable to meet regulatory and customer requirements. NParks will not be monitoring the laboratories after the one-time assessment but the listed laboratories will be ISO 17025 accredited and monitored for compliance to this standard by SAC-SINGLAS.

6. Do customers send the soil and soil mix samples to NParks or directly to the commercial laboratories?

NParks will not be accepting soil and soil mix samples for physical and chemical analyses from customers after 2 January 2026. Customers should send samples directly to the laboratories of their choice.

Please note that our Plant Health Laboratory and Advisory will continue to accept public and commercial samples for plant health diagnosis or biosecurity related testing to support plant protection and regulatory framework (e.g. PHY/ACS/BSAA).

7. Are the shortlisted commercial laboratories accredited?

The laboratories have confirmed that accreditation by SAC-SINGLAS will be done for new tests such as extractable nutrients using Melich3 extractant.

8. Would the cost of testing in a commercial laboratory be similar to what NParks?

We recommend customers to contact the commercial laboratories directly to get a quotation.

9. Do the commercial laboratories provide testing reports?

The short-listed commercial laboratories are amenable to provide testing reports. We have shared a reporting template with these laboratories.

10. Where can I find the soil and soil mix reference range?

The reference ranges of soil and soil mix – [Guide to interpreting soil and soil mix test results based on 'Sufficiency range' and 'ASM specifications'](#) can be found in our corporate website (www.nparks.gov.sg).

11. Who can I contact if I have any further questions?

If you have any further questions, you can get in touch with us at www.nparks.gov.sg/feedback.