

Need Help Interpreting Soil Tests? Improving Your Soil Health? Looking for A Consultant to Assist with Your Farm or Garden Production or Fertility Planning and Decisions?

We have room for a couple additional clients in 2013

Farm & Garden Soil Fertility Consulting

(note: priority will be given to commercial operations)



FRESH VEGETABLES & COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Contact Derek Christianson:

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Brix Bounty Farm – Farm & Garden Soil Fertility Consulting 2013

Last year we formally started consulting for farm & garden clients in our region. Each season we'll take on a small number of clients and will give preference to commercial operations located in Southeastern Massachusetts. We will also work with folks who are outside our region if our time allows.

Aim:

To assist growers improve the productivity of their acreage while building up soil fertility for long-term viability.

To help you build confidence in your decision making regarding fertility and nutrient management decisions.

To improve the flavor and nutritional quality of the crops you produce.

Base Fees:

Our consulting fees are priced on a sliding scale based on your farm's anticipated revenue and production volumes:

Gross Farm Sales less than	\$50,000	\$ 40 hourly rate
Gross Farm Sales between	\$50,000 - \$250,000	\$ 60 hourly rate
Gross Farm Sales greater than	\$250,000	\$ 80 hourly rate
Home Gardeners		\$ 80 hourly rate

Additional Travel Costs

< 15 miles from Dartmouth	Free
>15 miles from Dartmouth	\$.50 per mile (each direction)

We generally recommend a minimum initial session of 2 hours with suggested follow up phone sessions totaling 1 hour.

Preparing for our session together:

In order to maximize the impact of our time together we kindly request that you consider the following before our visit or phone session:

- Scope of Production:
 - What acreage do you currently crop?
 - What is the approximate value per acre of your crops?
 - What is your current level of investment in fertility – both financial and labor?

- Recent Soil Tests
 - We recommend sending us a copy of your most recent and past year's soil tests (derekchristianson@gmail.com).

- Prior Field Amendment History
 - Briefly list what amendments and application rates you have applied in the previous 3 years.

- Equipment, Labor, & Supply Capacity
 - What equipment does your farm currently have to add fertility amendments to your fields?
 - Compost Spreader – Size, Ground vs. Pto Driven?
 - Dry Applications – Bucket, Drop Spreader, Spin Spreader, etc.
 - Liquid Applications – Backpack Sprayer, Boom Sprayer, Drip Irrigation Systems, Fertilizer Injectors, etc.
 - Foliar Spray Applicators – Backpack Sprayers, Boom Sprayers, etc.
 - Farm Based Fertility – Compost Piles, Compost Tea Brewers, etc.

- On Farm Fertility Capacity – Compost, Cover Crops, etc.
 - What types of on farm fertility improvements does your farm currently utilize? What types are planned for the future?

- Preferred Vendors and Amendment Suppliers
 - When possible we suggest you continue to work with your suppliers with which you have existing relationships.
 - Supplier lists for difficult-to-source materials are available.

- What are the goals, hopes, and questions you have for our session?
 - Are there specific crops which you would like to focus on?
 - Are there specific diseases or pests which impact your operation?
 - Are there other issues which hinder your soil fertility and health? i.e. compaction, anaerobic zones, water issues, etc.
 - What specific questions do you have which you would like to address?