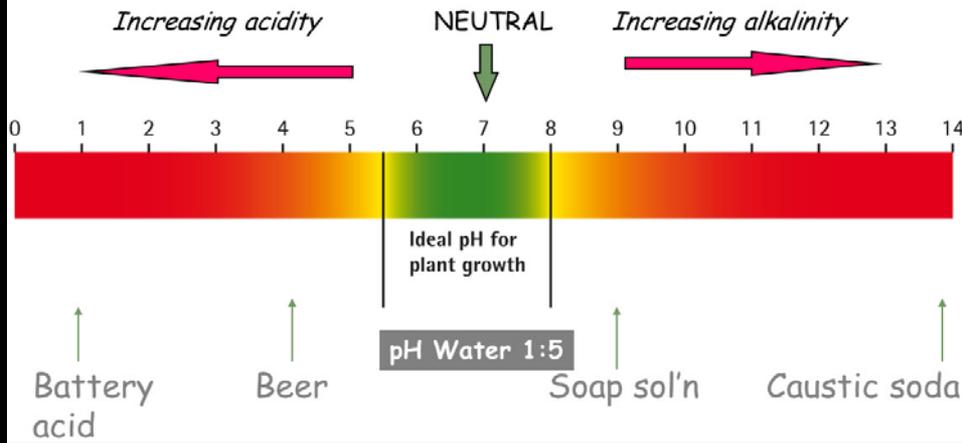


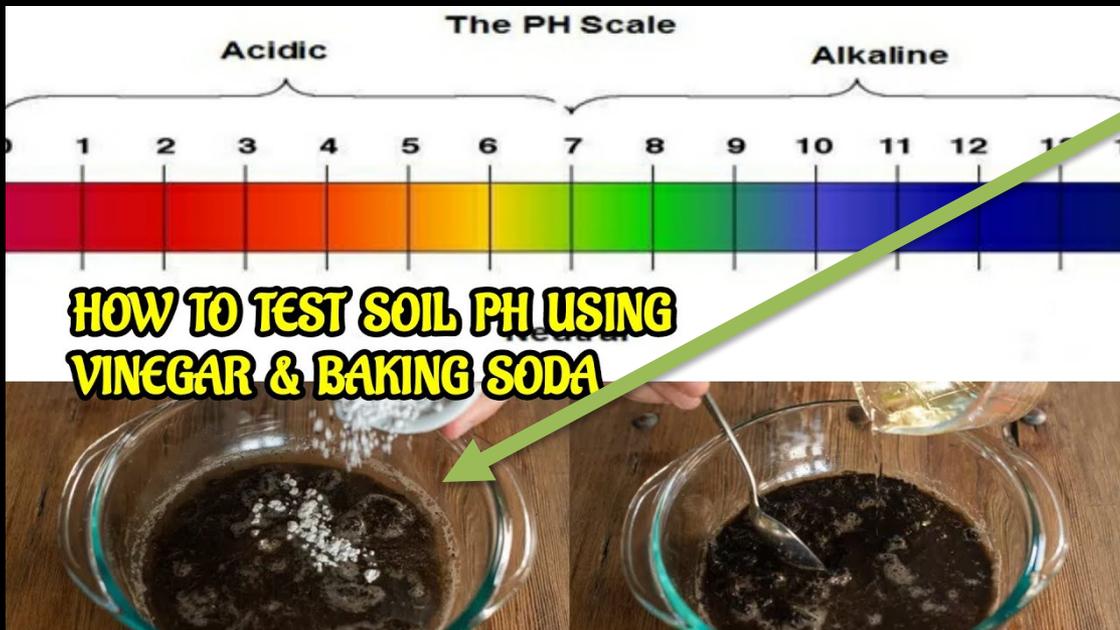
# Soil pH - what is it?

- measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a soil
- concentration of hydrogen ions (H<sup>+</sup>) in the soil solution



## Cost Concerns? No Worries

- Get 2 separate scoops of soil 4-6 inches down from the area you will plant.
- Remove sticks and stones and break up clumps
- Add about a cup of soil to a clean container and add water, bottled if available, to form watery mud.
- Add about a half cup of vinegar. If you get bubbles, the soil is alkaloid.
- If no bubbles occur, repeat the process with your second soil sample using ½ cup of baking soda.
- If the soil fizzes, bubbles, or foams, the soil is acidic.





# Uh, Oh I Got Bubbles!

## With Baking Soda

If the soil is overly acidic, simply slowly mix in lime. You can repeat the test after it has had time in the soil.

## With Vinegar

If your soil is high in alkaloids, add compost, manure, or organic soil amendments like alfalfa meal to increase the nitrogen level of the soil which will also gradually decrease the pH.



Ohhhh, NO!

# So How, Exactly, Do I Turn Dirt into Soil?

## Materials:

- Your existing Dirt
- Compost
- Sand, Peralite
- 10-10-10 Fertilizer

## Tools:

- 5-gallon bucket (just for measuring purposes.
- Shovel
- Dirt rake
- Wheelbarrow if available

Example: For every 5 gallons of this, add X gallons of that.

## Total Cost:

-Completely variable, but the whole point is to keep it as cheap as possible.



# Loose, Sandy Dirt... Into Soil!

You probably have a lot of weeds, but it could be worse, it's not horrible dirt.

## Planting in Ground:

- 5 Gallons Sandy Dirt
- 5 Gallons Compost/Manure
- 1 cup of 10-10-10 Fertilizer

## Planting in Pots:

- 5 Gallons Sandy Dirt
- 5 Gallons Coarse Sand/Peralite
- 10 Gallons Compost/Manure
- 2 Cups of 10-10-10 Fertilizer





# Hard Clay Dirt... Into Soil!

## CONGRATULATIONS!!

You have the absolute worst dirt possible.  
But, let's be optimistic

### Planting in Ground:

- 5 Gallons Clay
- 5 Gallons Sand (coarse)
- 10 Gallons Compost/Manure
- 2 Cups of 10-10-10 Fertilizer

### Planting in Pots:

- 5 Gallons Clay
- 10 Gallons Coarse Sand/Peralite
- 10 Gallons Compost/Manure
- 2 ½ Cups of 10-10-10 Fertilizer