# All Japan High School Forum 2021 Fertility Evaluation for Agricultural Uses In Potting Soil Mix

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### Introduction

Potting soil mix is a pre-made soil used for general planting. However, some plants that are grown in these soil have shown signs of nutrient deficiency. Nowadays, soil tests and evaluation can be done outside of a laboratory, so it is possible to evaluate how fertile potting soil mix actually is. This study can be beneficial in creating agricultural plans or making improvements to soil, so plants can grow as efficiently and healthy as possible.





### **Question and Objective**

Question

How suitable for plant potting soil mix is?

Objective

To examine and evaluate the agricultural fertility of general potting soil mix.

## **Tools and Samples**

#### Criteria for evaluation

- Soil pH value
- Soil Organic Matter Content
- Lime requirement of Soil
- NPK or Main nutrient value of Soil

#### Soil Samples

Three different Potting soil mix samples that are generally distributed in tree markets.

Tools

#### NPK and pH testing kit



Lime requirement testing kit



### **Methods**

#### 1. Prepare soil samples



Grind and sift soil into fine particles



#### 2. Test soil samples



NPK and pH testing kit



Lime requirement testing kit

Follow the instruction of each kit to test different properties of the soil samples



Organic Matter testing kit

### แถบสีมาตรฐาน ชุดทดสอบอินทรียวัตถุในดิน โครงการพัฒนาวิชาการดิน ป๋ย และสิ่งแวดล้อม าควิชาปฐพีวิทยา คณะเกษตร มหาวิทยาลัยเกษตรศาสตร์ Medium ดำมาก ปานกลาง

Evaluate the soil samples by comparing test results to standard color charts.

#### 3. Record the results



# Results

Soil Samples	рН	LR (kg CaCO <sub>3</sub> /Rai)	Main nutrient value			Organic Matter
			Ν	Р	К	(%)
No. 1	7.0	-	Very low	Very high	Medium	High (>3.5%)
No. 2	7.0	-	Very low	High	Low	High (>3.5%)
No. 3	6.5-7.0	83	Low	Very high	Low	High (>3.5%)



## Summary and Suggestions

#### Summary

Potting soil mix is suitable for plants in terms of pH value and organic matter content, but Nitrogen (N) and Potassium (K) need to be added for optimal plant growth.

#### Suggestions

- Physical properties of soil should also be tested.
- Soil samples should be more vary.
  - Solution or suggestion for soil improvement should be included.

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