

MORE LABS WILL PROVIDE TESTING

Several Ontario laboratories will be providing analyses under the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food's new laboratory accreditation program which came into effect September 1, 1989.

In March, the ministry announced its intentions to further privatize laboratory testing services for farms, home lawn and garden greenhouse media, plant tissues and livestock feeds. Ontario-based laboratories were invited to provide the testing services.

Until five years ago, the ministry's laboratory testing ser-

vices were handled by the University of Guelph. At that time, the ministry tendered for testing services and one laboratory was given a five year contract which expired August 31, 1989.

Clients will be required to pay for all analyses. To date, they were not paying analyses of farm soils.

The following laboratories have been accredited to provide the services note. Other laboratories are in the process of submitting their results and refining their procedures. Additional laboratories may be accredited and announced later this fall.

Submission forms are available in English and French from your local OMAF office with a comprehensive listing of all accredited labs, analyses offered and details on how to submit samples.

ACCREDITED LABORATORIES

Accredited for Analysis of the criteria as shown below (✓)

1. Soils (Farm, Home and Lawn and Garden)

Criteria	BASIC TEST					OPTIONAL TEST	
	pH	Buffer pH	P	K	Mg	Mn	Zn
LABORATORIES							
Accutest Labs Ltd. Nepean	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Agri-Food Labs, Guelph	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CIL Soil & Tissue Testing Centre, Courtright	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

2. Greenhouse Media and Nutrient Solutions

Criteria	pH	Total Salts	NO ₃	P	K	Ca	Mg	Cl
Agri-Foods Labs, Guelph	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

OMAF TURF HOTLINE — WELL WORTH THE EFFORT

The OMAF Turf Hotline has been well received by the turf industry. The hotline was updated weekly from April 7th – October 6th and proved to be an excellent method of disseminating up-to-date information on turf management to a large number of people across the province. Your comments on the hotline would be appreciated as we hope to continue this service in 1990.



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