

Water Testing Decision Tree

Utilizing safe, high-quality water is important for many purposes, including for produce growers to use with their produce before and after harvest, as well as for cleaning equipment, surfaces, and hands. Kansas State University utilizes grant funding to provide free microbial water testing for Kansas and Missouri produce growers. More information on why microbial water testing is important for produce growers and how to obtain that free testing is available from: ksre-learn.com/WaterTesting.

This decision tree — found on page 2 — is intended to provide general information on water testing for a broad range of uses.

Resources:

- More information on all aspects of produce safety for produce growers is available from: ksre-learn.com/Produce-Safety-Toolkit
- More information on the other types of water testing available in Kansas are listed in the decision tree.

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What are you using the water for?

What do you want to test for?

Irrigation or post-harvest use with fruits, vegetables or herbs for sale

Microbial Testing

Information on free testing available through K-State Research and Extension funded by a K-State/University of Missouri grant is toward the bottom of this webpage:

ksre-learn.com/WaterTesting

Irrigating crops (other than fruit, vegetables or herbs)

pH, salinity, nitrates, nutrients, etc.

Through the K-State Research and Extension Agronomy lab:

ksre-learn.com/Water-Analysis-Lab

Watering livestock and poultry

Household use

Microbial testing, some nitrate analysis

Some county sanitarians can provide water test kits or screenings. A list of private labs that provide water testing for household use is also available on this site:

kdhe.ks.gov/1851/Private-Well-Resource-Map

Note that this fact sheet only covers **water** testing, not soil testing. More information on soil testing is available at ksre-learn.com/Soil-Testing-Lab

For pesticide residue testing of water, or any other testing not listed, you will need to find a private lab to conduct the testing. See the KDHE website, kdhe.ks.gov/1851/Private-Well-Resource-Map, for a list of private labs that provide water testing for household use.

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