

What can I grow on my property?

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It is important to assess the biological resources on your farm, especially soil and water before deciding on what crops to grow. Below are some resources that will help you get more acquainted with the soil and water on your property. Taking the time to investigate these resources will help inform your decisions and potentially save you time and resources in the future.

Soil

- **[Web Soil Survey](#)**: If you would like to get an idea of what soils you have on your property, the Web Soil Survey is a tool developed by the USDA Natural Conservation Service. You can search for your property by following the instructions on their website, <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>
- **[Soil Testing](#)**: We recommend having your soil analyzed for some of the essential nutrients for plant growth, prior to purchasing and applying fertilizers. There are nutrient management guides to help determine which nutrients are needed and the application rate, but it's nearly impossible to get specific information for your own soil without first having test results. For information on how to collect a soil sample, a list of analytical labs serving Oregon and how to interpret soil test results, go to <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/soils>

Water: Water availability will impact your ability to irrigate and thus the crops you can grow. Check with your local water master if you are uncertain about your water rights. For more information visit the Oregon Water Resources Department at <http://www.oregon.gov/owrd>

For more information about water rights, read the Frequently Asked Question: “*Why do I need water rights for irrigation?*”

What Can I Grow?

Determining what your crop options are is not a simple question. In addition to matching the crop with your soil and water resources, you also need to consider what you like growing, what skills you have and what you can market in your region, either directly to consumers or to a wholesaler.

[What Can I Do With My Small Farm? Selecting an Enterprise for Small Acreages](#) is a publication that helps you move through the process of looking through different opportunities for your small farm.