



Hello, neighbors.

Major spring projects and plans, such as fences, decks and pools, require permits from the city of Herculaneum and/or the Stonewater Homeowners Association. Example: A fence requires city permit and HOA approval, and under HOA restrictions it cannot be chainlink.

**For Herculaneum permits**, visit this page: <http://cityofherculaneum.org/Permits.html>

**For HOA permits**, email [stonewatertrustee.joe@gmail.com](mailto:stonewatertrustee.joe@gmail.com)

**For additional info**, see the HOA covenants:

[http://docs.neighborhoodlink.com/resources/529251643/STONEWATER\\_COVENANTS.pdf](http://docs.neighborhoodlink.com/resources/529251643/STONEWATER_COVENANTS.pdf)

**NOTE:** Livestock is not allowed in Stonewater. **That includes raising and keeping chickens**, which is prohibited by HOA rules and under Herculaneum ordinance.

## Think green

Stonewater folks with newer homes might be looking at their backyards after the snow melts and wondering what to do about the muddy mess. Can't blame anyone who views an established yard with envy. Although even residents who've been here a decade might wonder whether to plant rice.

Consider this: January and February are great times to make plans for spring lawn work. Get the supplies now and be ready to spread seed for a green yard come March or April. Did you know: The average last frost date for Stonewater and vicinity is April 22, according to Old Farmers Almanac.



For the best chance of success, test your soil before buying grass seed or fertilizer. How? Use resources of the University of Missouri Extension. It's not just for farmers, and you don't need to plan for 100 acres of soybeans to get help.

Among Extension services offered Jefferson County residents, soil testing is most significant to Stonewater homeowners. For a little work and \$20, you can learn the composition of your yard and what it needs for best growing results. Whether it's grass or garden, knowing the right amendments can make your hard work pay off.

Jefferson County's Extension office will take your soil samples, send them to Mizzou for analysis and get results back to you. Now is a good time, because homeowners can beat the spring rush. Recent test results have been returned in less than a week, or even as soon as three days, after dropping off samples.



Here's how to do it. Dig some dirt from your yard, get it to the Extension office and await results. Yes, of course it's more complicated than that. You will need to dig down about four inches into the yard in four or five places with a shovel or garden spade. The dirt you submit must be dry ... good luck with that, but it's no big problem to spread the stuff out in a box or other flat surface in a warm place for a few days. Mix up the dry soil, collect about two cups worth and put the dirt in a sandwich-type zipper bag. Trek to the Extension office at 301 Third St. in Hillsboro. Plunk down 20 bucks (cash or check only). And there you go.

Samples are sent to Columbia every Wednesday.

For more information, contact the Jefferson County Extension office. Here's how:

**Via web:** <https://extension.missouri.edu/counties/jefferson/services>

**Via phone:** 636-797-5391

**By mail:** MU Extension in Jefferson County, 301 Third St., PO Box 497, Hillsboro, 63050

If you have an existing garden plot, its soil can be tested too but might be a separate charge. Whether you want flowers or vegetables, your production will improve with the right amendments. And who doesn't want more homegrown tomatoes?

Prepare now for happy growing. Let everyone know what your results show and what you are planning to do to turn your muddy mess a glorious green.

## Last word

Lindbergh Properties prohibits trespassing on vacant lots. It also advises residents its trash bin in the construction area is for its contractors' materials only. If you need to dispose of bulk trash, call Waste Connections at 636-321-2100. Website: <https://www.wasteconnections.com/>