



Instructions for Collecting Soil Samples

General tips for accurate results:

- Wash your hands well or put on clean gloves before handling the sample material.
- Only take the samples when it is possible to ship them immediately, the same day.
- Keep the samples out of the sun, and do not let them freeze either, as both of these situations will kill many beneficial organisms. Keep samples in a cool place works best.
- These samples need to reach our lab as soon as possible, it is recommended that these samples are treated as a time sensitive product, with the fastest delivery time frame (1-3 days, depending on where you are)
- Tools required for sampling: un-used sandwich size zipper-type plastic baggies, an apple corer, and a permanent marker. You will be extracting soil cores with the apple corer.
- Taking 5-10 cores per sample area will result in better representation of the state of soil health in an area than 1-2 cores would.
- As soon as the sample is taken, please write with your marker on the outside of the bag: which sample it is, the date and time. Do not place an identification note on the inside of the bag as this will change the results.

1. Identify the sample areas: there may be various samples to take if there are several different conditions on your land, or any other areas of interest.

EX: If part of your lawn is weeds, and another part is dead grass, those would be two separate sample areas.

Do the following steps for each different sample area

2. Take pictures of the sample area. Take note of the plants that are present, and include which plants are desired for each sample area.

3. Take sample cores from 5-10 different randomly selected spots within your sample area. In each sample spot, remove any debris or organic matter sitting on top of the soil. The best sample cores are from the root zone of the desired plant. So if the root zone can be located in the first 3-4 inches of the soil, then take the sample from the top of the soil (insert corer into soil, go 3-4 inches down). If the root zone is deeper, start your sample from 4 inches into the soil, take 3-4 inches. If you are sampling for soil around your trees, you must take your samples from mid way between the edge of the canopy and the tree trunk, at the appropriate root zone depth. **It is best to have some root material in every sample.**

* If you are testing for mycorrhizal colonization, you **MUST** include a minimum of 25 centimeters (10 inches) of root.

4. Empty those 5-10 cores into a clean bowl or bucket. Mix the samples together, gently, with your clean hands.

5. On plastic, zipper close bag, write which sample area the soil is from. Place ~2 cups (250 grams) of that soil mix into the bag. Leave some air space in the bag upon sealing, you want to leave oxygen for your soil organisms. Save on shipping costs and only send the amount of material per sample listed here!

6. Send your sample(s) using a carrier that can deliver your sample(s) to our lab in no longer than 3-4 days, but the sooner the better for accuracy. If you are able to send in 24-48 hours, it would be ideal.

7. Ship to the following address:

266 rue Lawrence, #231
Longueuil, Quebec
J4V 2Z4
Canada

8. When the package has been sent, please send us an e-mail containing the following details:

- the tracking number
- estimated time of arrival
- labeled pictures from sample areas
- plants present in each sample areas
- plants desired in each sample areas

This test takes approximately 15 working days to complete and we do give recommendations as to what your soil needs to be at optimum health.

We will send you the results, interpretations, and recommendations by e-mail. Once you receive your e-mailed report, you can contact us if there is a need to discuss the results further or additional interpretation of the report (additional consultation fees may apply).

Looking forward to working with you and your soils!

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