

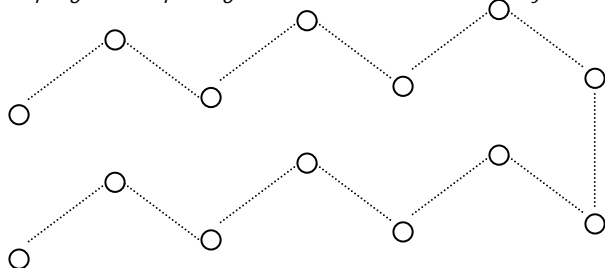
**PLEASE NOTE!** An accurate soil analysis and good recommendations depend on the soil sample being an accurate representation of the field. Please read and follow these instructions carefully!

## Soil Sampling Instructions - Field, Commercial Vegetables and Fruit, or Nursery Crops

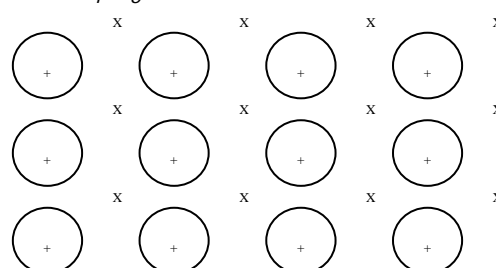
### Sampling scheme

1. Areas that are different in appearance, slope, drainage, soil type, or past cropping should be sampled and tested separately.
2. Also sample separately areas that have received different lime and/or fertilizer treatments. Avoid taking the sample from the fertilizer band when sampling areas in row crops.
3. To obtain a representative sample, plan to collect 12 - 16 subsamples within the field. The subsamples will be combined and mixed to create one representative sample. See diagrams below. Note that fruit orchards require two samples (represented by + and X in the diagram) for each field. One sample should be a composite of 12 - 16 subsamples taken under the trees (+), and the other sample should be a composite of 12 -16 subsamples taken between trees (x).
4. Each sample must be submitted with the appropriate soil test questionnaire.

For sampling field crops, vegetables, small fruits and nursery areas:



For sampling tree fruit areas:



### Sampling procedure

1. The soil is easier to sample when its moisture condition is suitable for plowing.
2. Use a trowel, spade, auger, or soil tube to obtain thin vertical slices or cores of soil from the surface to a depth of 6 - 8". If using a trowel or spade, insert the blade into the soil to a depth of 6 - 7"; remove soil and throw it aside. Reinsert the blade to take a thin ( $\frac{1}{2}$ " ) slice of soil, and lift the slice from the ground. Using a knife, cut from the center of this slice a 1" wide core from top to bottom. Place the core (subsample) in a clean bucket or other container.
3. Repeat this procedure at 11 - 15 locations within the sampling area, placing the subsamples together in the container.
4. If the soil is very wet when samples are taken, the soil should be laid out on clean paper to air-dry (**do not heat to dry**).
5. Mix the subsamples of a sampling area together in the container, breaking up large clumps. The goal is to provide a representative sample.
6. Place 1 pint (2 cups) of the soil in a plastic bag (sandwich bags are a good size). Securely seal the plastic bag with a rubber band or twist tie, and label the bag using permanent ink. Any excess soil can be returned to the field.
7. Repeat for any separate areas that you wish to have tested.

### Submitting the sample

8. Fill out the soil test questionnaire as completely as possible. Send the questionnaire with the sample (but not in the sample bag), making sure to identify the sample with the same "sample ID" that you use on the questionnaire. A group of samples can be sent together as long as each sample bag is properly sealed and identified and there is a properly identified questionnaire for each sample. USPS and delivery addresses are given above (top right). Enclose payment for all tests (check, MC, or Visa).