

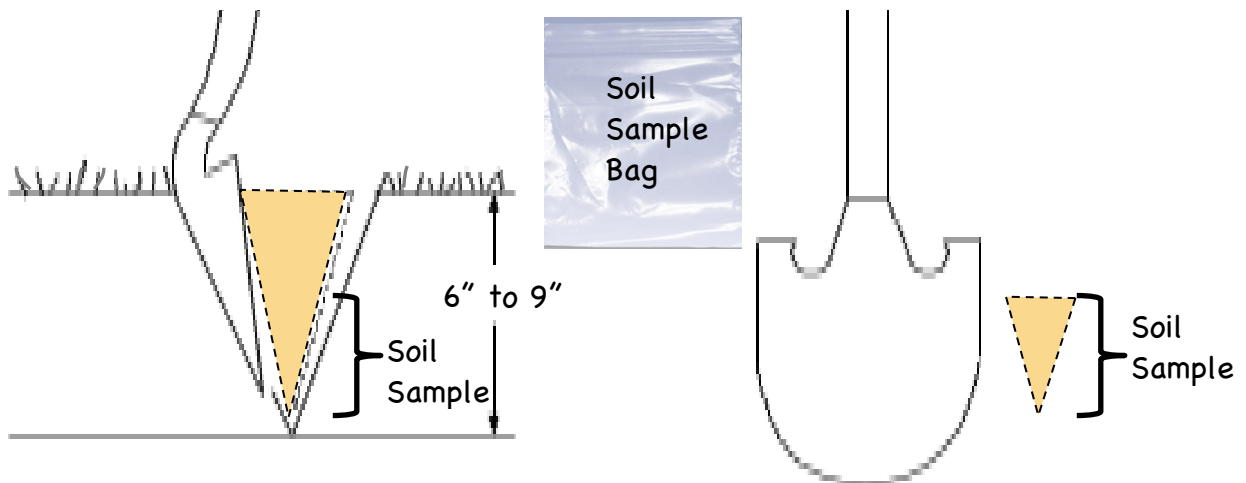


HARMONY FARM SUPPLY & NURSERY
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HOW TO TAKE A SOIL SAMPLE

Your results are only as accurate as the sample you give to Harmony Farm Supply!

- 1.) ***Soil that differs in soil type, appearance, crop growth, or past treatment should be sampled separately, provided the area can be fertilized separately.*** There is no point in getting more specific data on a field than you will use when making treatments on an average basis.
- 2.) Scrape away surface organic matter (litter). Using a spade or shovel, dig a 'V' shaped hole 6" to 9" deep (depending on how hard the soil is); then ***cut a thin slice of soil from one side of the hole.*** Take a small section of that slice from the top surface to the bottom of the hole and put in the bag we have given you or a brown paper bag. ***We need 8 cups of soil to send to the lab.*** To be sure of getting a representative sample, this step should be repeated for at least 3 to 4 locations in the field to be tested and mixed in a clean plastic pail. For large fields, 15 to 20 locations should be sampled and mixed. ***Provide only 8 CUPS of soil for each representative sample (about 1/2 of a gallon size zip lock bag).***



- 3.) ***Avoid areas or conditions that are different,*** such as areas where manure or compost have been piled or spilled; gate areas where livestock have congregated; and poorly drained areas. It is also a good idea to ***stay at least 50 feet from barns, roads and fence rows.*** Areas that have been leveled or had severe erosion or deposition should be sampled separately.
- 4.) Write your name, address and sample number on the bag before you fill it with the soil sample. Keep a record for yourself of where the soil was taken for each sample.
- 5.) For trace element analysis it is very important that no galvanized, soft steel, or brass equipment be used in collecting that soil sample.
- 6.) ***Avoid taking samples right after a rainstorm or irrigation*** as biological activity will release nutrients. Wait a few days before sampling to allow the soil to readjust.
- 7.) Please fill out our soil audit request form and return it to us with your sample and payment.