



Soil Sampling - How To Sample Guide

You will require the following easy to access parts;

1. PVC tube (40mm diameter, 750+mm long)
 2. Pine offcut (400+mm long)
 3. Butter knife
 4. Bucket (9L- 25L)
 5. Small tarp/plastic sheet (~1m²)
 6. Ziplock bags (sandwich size)
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1. Identify the area you want to sample.

It should have the same soil type across the whole area, and have a similar management history (e.g. crops grown, fertiliser use). If you're not already familiar with the area, dig a few holes to get a feel for the soil. You're looking for the same colour, texture (sandy, loamy, clayey) and structure (e.g. sandy topsoil, clayey subsoil). If this is not the case, then you should take more than one sample.

2. Determine how many soil cores you need to take.

The more the better, but as a rough guide:

- a) under 25m² : 6 cores
- b) 25 - 100m² : 8 cores
- c) 100 - 1000m² : 12 cores
- d) 1000m² - 1 hectare: up to 25 cores

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3. Select the location to take a soil core either by walking across the area in a zig-zag pattern and stopping at random, or evenly spacing them throughout the area

4. For each core location:

- a) Push tube into ground. Hold timber on top and hammer the tube into the ground until top of soil reaches 15cm mark.
- b) Pull tube out and cut soil core out – catch in bucket.

5. Repeat until you have enough soil cores

6. Reduce the volume of your soil sample

To reduce the amount of soil in each sample to 500ml (2 cups):

- a) Mix soil thoroughly in bucket, removing any stones or organic matter (e.g. grass, roots, leaves)
- b) Tip soil out on a clean tarp. Spread out into a square so it is 1-2cm thick.
- c) Using your finger, draw a line down the middle, and then across the middle, dividing the soil into four even areas.
- d) Randomly choose one of the quarters and discard into bucket. Do the same for the one diagonally opposite.
- e) Mix remaining soil up again, the repeat process until you only have about 2 cups of soil left.
- f) Tip soil into ziplock bag. Write your name, an identifier for the sample area (e.g. VEGIES) and the date.

7, Add your double bagged and labeled samples with the Agvita batch data sheet to the addressed Express Post and send

8, Turnaround time for your soil report and formula is around 3 weeks