

Soil Sampling Guide

Why soil testing?

- To characterize soil properties of a field
- To know soil fertility status and plan nutrient management
- To diagnose soil conditions/health and identify trends

When to do a soil test/sampling

- A soil test every 1-3 years is sufficient to maintain soil fertility
- Sampling time should be consistent: fall or spring

What am I sampling for?

- There are two main types of soil tests used in British Columbia
- Basic soil fertility test: measures pH and concentrations of phosphorus, potassium and other plant nutrient within 0-15 cm
- Post-harvest nitrate test: measures the amount of nitrate in the soil after harvest within 0-30 cm
- Other tests include soil organic carbon, cation exchange capacity, texture

Collecting representative soil samples

- Use appropriate sampling tools
- Accurately represent the field by
 - Partitioning the field based on management history and soil type
 - Avoiding manure piles/fertilizer storage areas
 - Avoiding patchy/eroded/low depression areas
- Determine sampling location based on crop
- Know your proper soil handling and storing requirements

Soil sampling steps



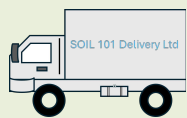
Remove surface crop residues and insert probe vertically



Collect a minimum of 15 sub-samples of soil and transfer into a bucket



Break any soil clods and mix thoroughly



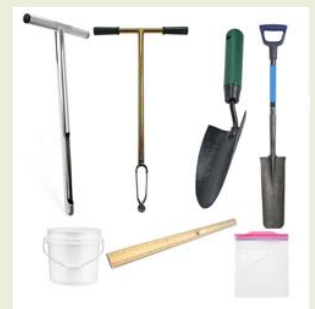
Send samples to the lab



Fill out the lab sample submission forms



Bag and label the soil sample. Store in a cool, dry, shaded place



Soil sampling equipment



For more information on soil sampling guide, scan the QR code