Soil Sampling Instructions

Follow these steps to collect a proper soil sample for testing.

1 Using a spade or trowel.

Make a 12" deep working hole. Take the sample from the primary root zone, which usually extends from 0"-12".

2 Shave a 1" thick sample from the side of your working hole with the tool.

Start at the top and push evenly down to the bottom, the goal is to take a uniform amount of soil. Include the top crust in the sample as it may contain fertilizers, which will be part of the representative sample.

3 Place the 1" thick soil sample into a clean bucket.

Break up clods to ensure the sample is mixed well. Remove any rocks, roots, stems, trash, or twigs from the soil. If the soil is very wet, dry it out to remove excess water and prevent leaking during shipment.

Dry the sample at room temperature. Do not use heat or place it in the sun as this can alter the chemistry of the sample.

4 Collect another four to five soil samples from the area you are testing.

The more samples you collect from the test area, the more accurate the test results will be. The largest recommended area to test in one sample is 40 acres. If you see significant, plant or soil differences in the area being tested, take samples from these different areas, and make a separate sample following the steps 1-4. Each sample must be submitted separately for analysis (you will be charged for each sample submitted). Label and submit separate samples from different area if needed. A quart-sized Ziplock bag works well to collect your sample.

5 Fill your ziplock bag with the soil you've mixed in the bucket.

The bag should be filled with at least 3 cups of soil, which will be sufficient for testing. Tape up your bag to secure the bag closed.

DO NOT PUT SUBMITTAL FORM IN THE SAMPLE BAG.

6 Place your soil sample in any shipping box you have on hand or purchase one at any carrier you woild like to use.

7 Apply postage and mail to our lab.

TPS Lab
4915 W Monte Cristo Rd
Edinburg, TX 78541