

ANALYTICAL CHEMISTS
and
BACTERIOLOGISTS
Approved by State of California

SOIL CONTROL LAB

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Sampling Instructions

For Soils:

Our report is going to represent a specific area to you, so your sample should be representative of that full area. To do this, use a clean bucket and take several small samples (at least 5, but up to 20 is even better) from the area and mix them together. We only need about a pint of soil, so take a sub-sample from the mixed bucket and put it in a zip lock or paper bag and discard the rest. Label the sample bag with the date, time, and a name for the area sampled. Avoid sampling unusual spots such as wet areas, old manure/urine spots or burned areas. Remove any debris from the soil surface including grass or mulch before sampling. Scoop down to the root depth of the plant; for most crops 6 to 8 inches is fine. Don't use tools or containers that have been used for fertilizer or lime.

It is difficult to cover all the considerations in determining how many separate samples to test. It is recommended that a single sample should cover 20 acres or less. One simple statement would be: Keep in mind that you should take 2 different samples if you feel an area has two different soils. Some nutrients and salts move (leach) with water, so if you have a slope or even depressions where water collects you will have different levels of salts and nutrients when comparing the soil that the water leaches from to the soil that the water is collecting on.

Please call to discuss any questions that you might have regarding sampling (831) 724-5422.