

Soil Sample Instructions

As best as possible collect a representative series of soil samples. Large acreage farms should be divided into sub-sampled parcels. For example: for a 50 acre farm, consider dividing this up into five sections of 10 acres each, or 10 sections of 5 acres each, for easier tracking, management, and representation of each section. For a small plot or field, you do not have to sub-divide, but ensure the sampled area is a uniform soil-type.

For each sampled parcel, a number of soil samples should be collected and bulked. Using a trowel or other tool, collect a shallow (2-6 inches deep) sample of soil into a container or bucket. Randomly walk to another area and collect the next sample, repeat this throughout the plot or field (~25 depending on field size). Mix the contents thoroughly. Collect approx. 2 cups of soil from this bulked mixture.

Place the sample in a durable plastic bag and secure the bag. Do not use paper bags. Mark the bag (or attach label) with your name and identifying information (location where sample was collected, farm name, sample number, crop grown). If samples come from different locations, put each sample in a separate bag since they should be tested separately.

To ship the samples, place the bags in a box. Include contact information (name, business, email), and ship to the address below. Include check in the box for payment made out to UConn Extension. Do not send samples on Friday as the offices are closed over the weekend. If delivering, please contact me beforehand. Samples can be stored at room temperature for a short time if necessary.

Mail to:

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