



## SAMPLING INFORMATION

### When to sample?

The soil nutrient status of your paddock should be assessed prior to intended fertiliser applications. This can either save you money or make you money by allowing the optimum amount of inputs to be applied.

We recommend paddocks be tested at least once every 3 years, as soil nutrient status can change significantly over time.

- Pre-cropping to determine base fertilisers and applications at planting
- In-crop to assess nutrient availability
- As a basis for nutrient management plans and budgets.

### Sampling depth

The soil test should be representative of rootzone conditions. If the soil has not been worked (i.e. mixed) the sampling depth should represent the main rootzone depth (80-90% of roots). This applies especially to perennial horticulture and no-till or minimum tillage crops to avoid errors due to nutrient stratification. Consider collecting a shallow and deep sample if sub-rootzone nutrition is important. Different crops require sampling to different depths – if unsure, please contact AgVita for advice

### Postage and packaging hints

Samples should be kept cold after collection. All soil samples must be double bagged prior to sending. This helps to maintain the samples integrity and ensures they pass Quarantine inspection. Do not overfill individual soil bags, as they may burst open during postage.

Send the samples via overnight express to:

**AgVita Analytical**  
**PO Box 188, Devonport, TAS 7310**  
**Ph: (03) 6420 9600**  
**Fax: (03) 6427 0230**  
**Email: [info@agvita.com.au](mailto:info@agvita.com.au)**

For more information and to obtain a sample label visit: [www.agvita.com.au](http://www.agvita.com.au)

### Sampling procedure

1. Select a paddock or portion of a block with uniform soil conditions that represents a single management unit. Within that area, follow a W or S pattern or use a random transect when collecting samples.
2. Avoid irrigation and spray runs, headlands and compacted or other non-typical areas. These areas may have to be sampled separately if significant.
3. Remove the first 1-2cm of topsoil to eliminate any surface applied fertilizer.
4. Take 15-20 sub samples with an auger to a depth of 15cm, or to the main root zone depth. Record the depth on the Customer Request Form (sample label).
5. Empty the contents of each sub-sample into a clean bucket, mix and transfer into a plastic zip lock bag. If more than 500g have been collected, take a well-mixed sub-sample of up to 500g of soil from the bucket.
6. Less than 500g soil can be sent for more basic soil tests- please contact us if uncertain about the correct amounts.
7. Samples are to be double bagged prior to sending. Place inside two plastic ziplock bags.
8. Chill the sample immediately after sampling by placing it into an esky with a frozen ice pack or a fridge. The samples may be stored, provided they are kept chilled or are immediately air-dried.
9. Complete an AgVita Customer Request Form, giving complete details for each sample. See [www.agvita.com.au](http://www.agvita.com.au) to download labels or call us for complimentary hard bound books.