

GMS Collecting a Soil Sample



Soil sampling is not complicated. However, the largest source of error is in sample collection. Extra time and effort, in the sampling procedure, will result in a more accurate representation of your lawn or garden. Please read *all* the instructions prior to beginning the sampling process.

Select an Area to Sample

Good areas and bad areas should be submitted as separate samples. You should avoid areas such as –

- Drip line of trees
- Near foundation of building
- Near rain gutter or downspout

Also, consider the following items –

- Is the area uniform in appearance?
- Is it representative of the problem I wish to correct?
- Am I growing multiple cultivars (roses, lawn, tomatoes, etc.)?

Information to Include With Sample

- Your name and address
- Identification of sample (lawn, garden, front, rose bed, etc.)

Collection of Soil to Submit

1. Using soil spade or trowel remove a V-shaped wedge, approximately 6 inches deep.
2. From one side of V-shaped hole remove a slice (1/2 inch thick) from top to the 6 inch depth.
3. Place complete slice in a clean bucket.
4. Repeat steps III A, B, C, (in a zigzag pattern, spacing each V-shaped hole 5-10 feet apart) to well represent the area.*
5. Mix slices as thoroughly as possible.
6. Place 1 cup of the mixed soil in a plastic bag. Seal bag well.
7. Place filled, sealed sample bag and information sheet in a box.
8. Seal box with packaging tape and deposit with the US Postal Service.
9. Mail To: GMS Laboratories, Inc. P.O. Box 61, Cropsey, Ill 61731
10. Your results will be returned with recommendations. (about 2 weeks)

Questions? 1-877-315-6007 (Toll Free)

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