



How to Take a Soil Sample

Samples must be collected within the one soil type and slope and have similar history (for example, a lawn out the back, a raised veggie patch to the side and a garden out the front of the house would require three separate tests as the areas have different history). Avoid recently fertilized areas, manure and urine patches, old fence lines, old animal pens, old building sites, gullies and other areas that are not typical of the area being sampled.

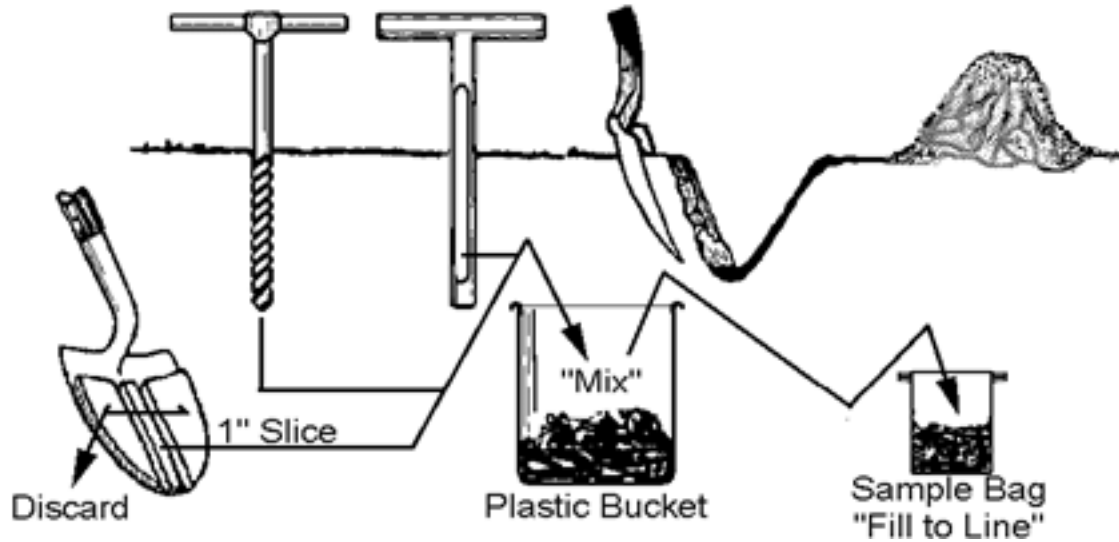
Take at least 15 samples to a **depth of 15 cm**, from all over the area that you wish to test, and mix them all up together in the same clean plastic bucket. Just remember, in a small garden, you might just take one every square metre.

Ensure the sampling tool is clean and rust free, and gloves are worn to reduce contamination of the soil sample. Remember to **remove the top mulch layer to the side before taking your sample**.

If you do not have a soil sample tool or auger, you may like to purchase one, or can use a spade using the directions below. If you're feeling up to the challenge, you can make a DIY soil sample tool at home.

If using a spade or hand tools, dig a hole to 15 cm deep, then take a slice of soil from top to bottom. It is very important to sample uniformly down the soil profile. Too much surface soil compared to deeper soil will give inaccurate data and may lead to inappropriate mineral amendment advice.

Mix the soil sub-samples together thoroughly, in a clean plastic bucket, and then weigh out one representative sample of approximately **450 grams**. Package the sample in a plastic bag (eg. a sandwich bag filled halfway is appropriate) with your Name, Sample ID (eg. veggie patch, orchard, swales) and details of the main crop to be fertilized, (e.g. lawn, vegetables, fruit trees, natives or mixed garden), on a stick on **external label**, (do not put the label in the bag with the soil, as it may absorb moisture from the sample and become illegible). Do not write directly on plastic, as writing can rub off in transit. Use a permanent marker.



Your **EAL Chain of Custody form** and **payment to the laboratory \$114.40** must be included with the **soil sample**, and posted to:

Environmental Analysis Laboratories
PO Box 157
LISMORE NSW 2480

Allow 2-3 weeks turnaround for lab results and recommendations via e-mail.

If any part of this process is causing any discomfort or confusion, please give us a call or send an email and we are happy to help you out.

Tim Cantrill
www.homesoilsolutions.com.au
tim@homesoilsolutions.com.au
0439 717 023

This is the first exciting step in the process towards you helping your garden reach its full potential!!