

# Soil Sampling Guide

## Proper Sampling Equipment

Equipment should allow for monitoring and control of the sampling depth. A stainless steel sampling probe works best.

Composite samples should be collected in a plastic bucket for thorough mixing. Metal buckets can contain traces of some micronutrients (particularly zinc), which can contaminate samples.

Soil sample bags should be either plastic or plastic lined. These can be supplied by AgSource.

## Sampling Procedures

Identify the areas to be sampled and note their locations for easy future reference. This is particularly important for fairways. Sample each unique area separately: mixing subsamples from different greens or fairways is not recommended.

Each sample should consist of a composite of many subsamples. About 10 to 15 subsamples are needed to supply the laboratory with enough soil for a nutrient analysis. The soil volume needed is roughly one cup (or approximately one pound).

Most importantly, keep sampling depth consistent. Golf greens should be sampled to a depth of three inches. For other turf samples, three to four inches is adequate.

It is advisable to include the thatch layer in your sample since it is a biologically active site. Keep in mind that this residue may contain fertilizer granules not yet dissolved or other materials which will affect the nutrient levels. Therefore, wait a minimum of two weeks after an application to collect soil samples.

Avoid any unusual areas in your routine sampling. These should be analyzed separately. An example would be poorly drained areas.

Clearly identify the sample (example: GRN#1) on each bag and submission form. Sample submission forms are available on our website.

## Paperwork and Shipping Instructions

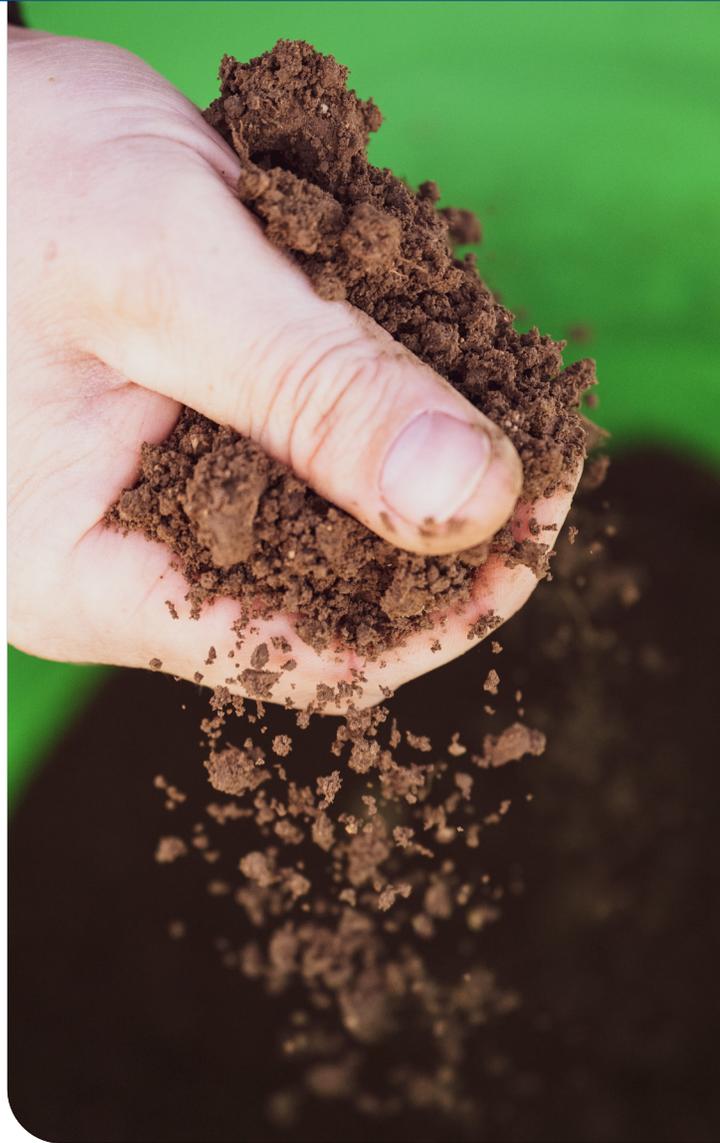
Please be sure all essential information is completed. The following information is required:

**Samples Submitted By** – This will be the account name and address, as well as who will receive the results and invoice.

**Submitted For** – The name and address for the golf course being tested.

**Turf Type** – This is expressed in broad categories: Greens, Fairways, Tee Boxes, etc.]

**Note:** Be sure the sample identification on the sample submission form matches the identification labeled on the soil sample bag(s).



Specify the desired analytical test packages to be performed

Pack samples very tightly in a strong shipping box. Use packing material so the bag(s) will not shift in the box. Tape the box completely and securely.

If possible, collect and ship samples on the same day. Visit our website or call your local AgSource laboratory to order your free sampling supplies.