

SAMPLING GUIDE

Soil



Field Size and Sampling Areas

- Limit soil samples to 20 acres sections. Divide larger fields into smaller sections.
- Select areas with similar soil type and fertilization history, creating a composite sample for each distinct area.

Composite Sample Composition

- Gather at least 10 soil cores from similar areas to form a composite sample.
- Avoid contamination by removing any plant matter or debris from the sample. Submit at least **two cups** of soil for each analysis.

Sampling Depth Consistency

- Maintain a consistent sampling depth, tailored to the root depth of the intended crop. Avoid sampling deeper than the crop's root depth.

Equipment and Tools

- Use plastic collection containers (such as plastic pails) to avoid contamination from trace metals found in metal containers.
 - Various tools like augers or spades may be used for sampling, depending on the soil type and sampling depth required

Sampling Problem Areas Separately

- For fields with known problem areas, collect separate samples from both affected and unaffected zones. The comparison can highlight soil health differences and potential nutrient deficiencies.

Labeling and Documentation

- Label each sample clearly and uniquely. Record the exact field, section, or area that each sample represents for accurate tracking.

Seasonal and Annual Consistency

- Sample fields in the same season and same field sections each year. This consistency helps reduce variability and creates a reliable field history.

Combining Soil and Plant Sampling

- Consider taking both soil and plant samples during the growing season. Analyzing both types of samples can help differentiate nutrient uptake issues from other factors like soil chemistry, physical conditions, or plant disease.

****All soil samples must be accompanied by a fully completed sample submission form. Fillable version available on our website www.newagelaboratories.com****

