

# SAMPLING GUIDE

## Soil



### Sampling Instructions

- A soil sample should represent no more than 20 acres. If fields are larger than 20 acres, it is necessary to break them in smaller sections.
- Soil samples should be taken in areas of similar soil type and fertilization history, making a composite sample from each area.
- A composite soil sample should contain at least 10 soil core samples collected from similar areas. Remove any plants or plant parts present in the sample, and submit 2+ cups of soil for analysis.
- Be consistent in the depth to which soil samples are taken. Sampling depth should not exceed the root depth of the crop being planted on that field.
- If using a pail to collect the soil, it should be plastic to avoid any contamination from trace metals.
- When sampling problem areas, collect separate samples from both the poor and the good areas to use as comparison.
- Be sure each sample is uniquely labeled and record which field or section of a field each sample came from.
- Several different tools, such as an auger or a spade, may be used in taking soil samples.
- Taking both a soil sample and a plant sample during the growing season may help distinguish nutrient uptake patterns from chemical, physical, or disease factors.
- Keep the sampling season and the sample areas the same each year. This approach will minimize inconsistencies in results from year to year and will provide a better field history.



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All soil samples must be accompanied by a fully completed sample submission form. Fillable version available on our website [www.newagelaboratories.com](http://www.newagelaboratories.com)

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