

University of Idaho Analytical Sciences Laboratory

Procedure for Collecting and Submitting a Soil Sample

Sampling Procedure

One of the most important steps in a soil testing program is to collect a soil sample that represents the area to be fertilized. If the soil sample is not representative, the test results and recommendations can be misleading.

Use proper soil sampling tools. A soil auger or probe is most convenient, but you can use a shovel or spade for shallow samples. You will need a plastic bucket or other container to help you collect and mix a composite sample. Be sure that all equipment is clean, and especially be sure it

Use prope