

## Procedure for Taking Soil Samples

### Soil Sampling Area

- 1) Take one composite sample for every 10 to 40 acres. A separate sample should be taken for:
  - a) Areas with different soil types
  - b) Areas with different land uses or fertilizer application rates
  - c) Areas with different cropping histories (species and yields)
  - d) Areas with different terrain
- 2) Avoid sampling areas such as small gullies, slight field depressions, terrace, waterways, or unusual areas.
- 3) When sampling fertilized fields, avoid sampling directly in fertilized band and wait at least 2 months after last fertilization.

### Taking a Composite Sample

- 4) Use a spade, soil auger or soil sampling tube.
- 5) Clear plants and plant residue from the surface (do not remove decomposed black material that no longer can be identified as a plant).
- 6) Take a 0-6 inch sample, insure equal soil throughout this six inch depth.
- 7) It is important to **repeat steps 4-6** an additional **9 to 14 times** for each area identified in steps 1-3. Place each collected core/sample in a clean plastic bucket or other non-metallic container and thoroughly mix the soil while removing any large roots/plant tissues that might have been collected.
- 8) Fill a quart-sized freezer resealable bag half to 3/4 full for soil tests suites that do not include Detailed Salinity or Soil Texture. For sample analysis that includes Detailed Salinity and/or Soil Texture, a full rock free quart bag or full soil sample bag is required.
- 9) To improve the nitrate-nitrogen analysis, samples may be **air dried** before sending to the laboratory. **Do not use heat** to dry samples.
- 10) Label the sample bag with the identical Sample ID listed on the front side of this submittal form. Use multiple submittal sheets if needed, do not place more than one sample per line.

### Water Well Sampling instructions:

- **Pour the contents of a new 12-20-ounce bottle of water out and fill it with a water sample from your private water well.**
- **Take the sample directly from the spigot/hose bib nearest the wellhead.**
- **If an inside faucet is used, remove the aerator from the faucet before making the collection. Rinse and dry the exterior of the faucet to prevent contamination of the water sample.**
- **If possible, wipe with a Clorox-type towelette or paper towel wetted with a light bleach solution to kill any bacteria present on the faucet. Allow the cleaning solution to dry before sampling.**
- **Turn the water on full force and let it run for 2 minutes or until the pump starts running.**
- **Reduce the water flow to a small stream, then take the sample.**
- **The sample should be collected within 24 hours of submission to ensure accurate results.**