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Instructions for Collecting Soil Samples

General tips to achieve accurate results:

- Wash hands thoroughly or put on latex gloves before handling material to be sampled.
- Take sample only when it is possible to package and ship immediately.
- Keep samples cool but do not freeze. Freezing and thawing kills many beneficial microbes.
- Follow recommended sample delivery time frames (3-4 days for soils).
- Helpful tools for taking soil samples are quart-size plastic bags with a zipper-type closing and an apple corer which you can purchase at most grocery or kitchen supply stores.

1. Identify the problem area, or other area of interest to take the sample from.

2. Take sample cores from 5-10 different randomly selected spots within the area of interest. Begin at the top of the soil, so wipe away any debris or organic matter sitting on top of the soil. The best sample cores are from the root zone of the desired plant. If the root zone cannot be located cores from 3-4 inches down into the soil will work. Note: Taking 5-10 cores will give you a better representation of the area than just 1-2 cores would. If you are testing for mycorrhizal colonization, you MUST include a minimum of 25 centimeters (10 inches) of roots. It is best to have some root material in every sample.

3. Empty those 5-10 cores into a clean bucket or bowl. Mix up the core samples.

4. Put 10 oz or 250 g (approximately 2 cups) of mixture in a plastic, zipper close bag. Leave some air space in the bag upon sealing. Save on shipping costs and only send the amount of material per sample listed here!

5. Send your sample(s) using a carrier that can deliver your sample(s) to our lab within 3-4 days. Ship to: **Earthfort 635 SW Western Blvd Corvallis OR 97333.**

This test takes approximately 15 working days to complete and we do give recommendations as to what your soil needs to be at optimum health. **Make sure you fill out and send a Testing Order Form with your sample. The Testing Order Form is available as a PDF at www.earthfort.com** (click on Lab Services). On this form please include the email address where you would like the report sent.

Once you receive your report via email you can call and schedule a phone appointment to discuss the results and interpret the report, (additional consulting fees may apply.) We also offer a free, one hour webinar called, "Understanding Your Soil Biology Report" which you can find at our website under Education. We look forward to doing business with you!