

Traditional Soil Sampling Procedure

1. To take a soil sample, you will need a soil probe, soil auger, or shovel and a clean plastic bucket.
 2. Collect 6 to 8 cores (if using a probe or auger) or furrow slices (if using a spade) 0 to 6 or 0 to 8 inches deep from a representative area. If soil types vary greatly within a field or garden plots, we recommend using zone sampling to isolate differences in soil types.
 3. Surface soil samples should be taken to an 8-inch depth.
 4. If cropping or fertilizer has not been applied uniformly in a field, then a separate sample should be taken from each management or soil area.
 5. Composite surface soil samples should consist of a mixture of about 6 to 8 soil cores. Mix these cores thoroughly and fill the sample bag. Label the bag correctly and use this same identification on the soil information sheet.
 6. Cloth or paper soil test bags or a **quart size zip lock bag** may be used.
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For further demonstration of these techniques please visit this instructional video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOXwixIU2F8>

 Soil Sampling Without a Soil Probe
