



Guidelines for taking a Soil Sample

It is advisable to use the correct method when taking a soil sample as any analytical result is only as good as the sample taken.

For sampling purposes divide the farm into fields or areas of minimum 2 – 4ha and maximum 8ha.

Take separate samples from areas that differ in soil type, previous cropping history, slope, drainage or persistent poor yields.

Avoid any unusual spots such as old fences, ditches, drinking troughs, dung or urine patches or where organic manure or lime has been heaped or spilled in the past.

Do not sample a field for P and K until 3 - 6 months after last application of fertiliser P and K. Where lime has been applied allow a time lag of 2 years before sampling for lime requirements (although this is not critical).

Follow a 'W' soil sampling pattern to ensure that the sample is representative of the entire field. Ensure that all soil cores are taken to the full 100mm/10cm/4" depth. Place the 20 cores in the soil box or bag to make up the soil sample.

Write the field number and sample number on the soil box or bag.

Recommended Soil Sampling Pattern:



For expert advice, or to find out more about the available soil tests call us on 059 9721022 or email sales@isalabs.ie.