

**Correct Sampling is imperative to ensure accurate analysis and interpretation. When sampling Lime/Dolomite/Gypsum or Compost it is important to obtain a representative sample.**

Sampling procedures are as recommended in the Australian Standard (AS 4454-2012), Composts, soil conditioners and mulches.

Due to the variability within a stockpile or windrow of material, the sample must be composed of a series of subsamples which is then combined and reduced to obtain a representative sample.

Because of the dynamics of microbial activity in composts, samples taken from active stock piles can change rapidly, avoid temperature fluctuations and deliver to the lab as soon as possible.

### Taking the sample

1. Calculate the number of subsamples required and recommended size of subsamples relative to particle size.

Windrow or Pile volume, m <sup>3</sup>	No Samples	Largest Size (mm)	Litres per subsample
<575	12	70	6
1000	16	50	4
2000	23	20	2.5
3000	28	10	1.25
>3600	30	5	0.6

2. Take subsamples using a spade or trowel, taking subsamples from random positions throughout the pile. Arrange for the pile or windrow to be turned, screened or completely homogenized on the day that the sample is taken, breaking up and distributing any clumps.
3. For a windrow or pile that has not being turned or screened (homogenised), use a front end loader to dig or back-blade halfway into the pile to expose a cross section. Take subsamples scattered over the width and height of cross-section.
4. Combine the samples and blend into a composite sample. The lab requires 500 grams of your representative sample.

### Sending the Sample to the lab

1. Ensure APALs sample bags are filled to the desired line. If using other bags please ensure there is 500 g of sample.
2. Ensure you have the correct submission form and the details are filled out correctly.

Deliver to: **APAL Agricultural Laboratory**  
**PO Box 327 Magill**  
**Adelaide, South Australia 5072**

For any further information please contact APAL on 08 8332 0199 or [info@apal.com.au](mailto:info@apal.com.au)