

Correct Sampling is imperative to ensure accurate analysis and interpretation. Precise Nutrient Management can only occur with a quality representative sample.

Regular tests build better profile

- Sample different soil types separately.
- Avoid unusual areas, stock camps, fertiliser dump sites, dam sites, gates, troughs, trees.
- Avoid fence lines (old and new), sheds and roadways
- Sample varying topography (Hills and flats) separately.
- Avoid poorly drained areas and wet conditions
- Avoid headlands
- Ensure different fertiliser and rotation histories are sampled separately.
- Avoid dung and urine patches in pastures
- Sample High and low yielding areas separately.
- Don't sample paddocks that have had ameliorants (lime) or fertiliser applied in the past 2-3 months

Taking the sample

1. Review your required tests from APALs price list/service guide. If guidance is required consult APAL or your local advisor/agronomist.
2. Determine an appropriate sampling plan
 - Ensuring a representative sample is obtained
 - Avoid unusual areas listed above
3. Ensure all your equipment is clean
4. Remove debris and plant material from the soil surface
5. Take the required number of cores utilising a transect or zigzag sampling plan
6. Pool your cores in a clean plastic bucket, breaking the soil into small crumbs
7. Mix the sample thoroughly in the bucket
8. Place your representative sample into APALs soil test bags and fill to the required line. Place no more than 200-300 gms if using your own bags
9. Ensure your equipment and bucket is clean before moving onto your next sample.
10. If using a shovel ensure the sample is consistent down to the required depth (e.g. take a slice down the side not a V sample)
11. If excess sample is collected ensure the sample is well mixed before sub-sampling, try to reduce the sample to around 200-300 gms to avoid excessive postage charges.

Sending the Sample to the lab

1. Ensure APAL's sample bags are filled to the desired line. If using other bags please ensure there is 200-300 gms of soil.
2. Ensure you have the correct submission form and the details are filled out correctly with **Post code**, test code, sample name, Crop and sampling depth. If any extra tests are required please mark with a cross or note the code in other tests.

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