

How to collect soil samples for the best results



1. **Choose your soil sampling equipment.**

A spade and a clean bucket can be used. Please refer to the instructions for using a spade and a bucket in the diagram below. Alternatively, you can use one of our soil sampling probes. Please ring our office on 08 8332 0199 or email us on info@apal.com.au for further information.

2. **Decide on the right depth for sampling.**

For trees, vines, vegetable gardens, flower beds collect your sample from the surface and down to a depth of 15 cm. For lawn and pastures collect your sample from the surface and down to a depth of 10 cm.

3. **Where to take a soil sample?**

First select a representative area. Keeping in mind to take samples separately from:

- different soil types
- good and problem (productive/non-productive) areas
- hills and flats
- vegetable gardens, orchards and lawns
- areas of same soil with different fertilizer histories

Avoid taking soil samples:

- close to sheds, fence lines, roads and gateways
- in urine and dung patches
- close to water tanks or troughs
- close to old buildings or burn-off

4. **Now you're ready to go!**

Within one representative area, take at least 20 core samples. Take samples across the whole area in a grid or zig zag pattern. Place this soil in your bucket and mix thoroughly. From this composite sample, pour the soil mixture into one of the provided sample bags, to the line indicated.

5. **Sending your soils to us ...**

Please turn overleaf.

