

Taking soil samples the right way

Sampling instructions for the Haney soil vitality analysis

The analysis is only as good as the sample. A clean composite sample decides whether the figures really describe your field – and whether the following years stay comparable. Seven steps take you through.

1 · Get the kit ready

- Stainless steel soil probe or auger (with depth stop), clean plastic bucket
- The sample bags we supply – no used bags, no residue from fertiliser or feed
- Waterproof pen for labelling

2 · Label the bag – before you sample

- Straight onto the bag: name, sample number, field name, date, sampling depth
- No slips of paper inside the bag – they tear or fade in transit

3 · Take the cores

- At least 15 cores per field, evenly spread – in a zigzag or W pattern across the area
- Only combine areas with the same conditions: same soil type, crop, tillage and fertilisation. Sample differing patches separately.
- At least 10 m away from field edges, headlands and tramlines – the soil there is not representative
- Sampling depth: 0-20 cm in arable, fruit, vegetable and wine growing, 0-10 cm in grassland. Keep the same depth for every core – the depth stop helps.
- Soil condition: moist as for tillage – not dust-dry and not wet

4 · Make the composite sample

- Put every core into the bucket and mix thoroughly
- Remove stones and visible plant and root residue
- Fill exactly 600 g of the mixture into the labelled bag and close it well. Important: please weigh the 600 g, so the pre-declared shipping documents match and there are no problems at customs.

5 · Pick the right moment

- At least 3 weeks after the last fertilisation, and the same gap after tillage. Otherwise you measure the treatment, not the soil.
- Best: in spring before the first fertilisation, or in summer/autumn after harvest
- In the following years always sample at the same point in the rotation and under the same conditions – only then are the figures comparable over the years
- On request our partner terrahum.ch takes the cores GPS-guided: same spot, every year

6 · Fill in the sample form and the order

- Client: your name
- Enter the field name and sample number – with several samples per field give them one shared number
- Enter the soil group, if known
- Tick the type of use: grassland, arable, permanent crop, vegetables or lawn
- Enter the target crop, if known, incl. target yield in dt/ha
- Tick Ht if you also want the total digestion of the nutrients

7 · Pack and send

- Send the samples straight after taking them – do not store, do not dry, do not freeze
- Put the bags and the completed sample form into the prepaid EDAPRO box
- Close the box well and hand it in at the post office – that way the parcel reaches the lab quickly
- You get the results a few weeks after the analysis date by email, together with our discussion of the measures

Quick check before sending

- ☐ All bags labelled (name, number, field, date, depth) and closed properly
- ☐ Every sample filled with exactly 600 g (weighed) from at least 15 cores
- ☐ Stones and plant and root residue removed
- ☐ Sample form filled in completely and enclosed
- ☐ Samples recorded in your own system (field, date, number)

Questions about sampling? We support you – in the field as well.

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