

## **BLUEBERRY**

### **PROCEDURES FOR SOIL SAMPLING**

Soil analyses provide useful information for measurement of fertility or toxicity levels and to substantiate amendment requirements. This guide will help you collect representative and meaningful samples which will assure relevant laboratory analysis data.

#### **How to sample - Soils**

Soil samples should be collected from the surface to a depth of twelve inches (0-12") and analyzed for Comprehensive Soil Suitability analysis.

Soil samples should be representative of the area to be treated. If possible, areas should be uniform with respect to soil texture, slope, variety and irrigation design. Areas sampled should not be larger than ten acres. The location of the sample areas should be noted and marked on a parcel or planting map for future reference.

Soil samples should contain at least ten cores for each sample area. Retrieve an equal amount of soil from the surface to a depth of twelve inches. Place the soil core samples in a clean bucket and thoroughly mix. Approximately a quart volume of this soil will be required for analysis purposes.

### **LEAF SAMPLING - BLUEBERRY**

#### **How to Sample - Leaves**

Leaf samples should be representative of the area to be fertilized. The sampler should traverse each sample area collecting samples perpendicularly or diagonally to the tree rows. Sampling areas should be uniform with respect to soil texture, slope, variety and irrigation design and should not be larger than 10-20 acres. Problem areas should be sampled separately.

#### **Volume and Type of Leaves to Collect**

70-80 leaves from each area will be sufficient. Collect the newest mature leaves. Five to seven month old spring cycle leaves from non-fruiting, non-flushing terminal shoots are the most desirable for analysis purposes.



## **Labeling, Packaging, and Shipping**

All leaf and soil samples should be labeled with your name and address, sample identification, crop, tree age, previous problems (if any) and the required analysis. Leaf tissues should be placed in paper bags and soil samples in plastic bags. Leaf samples should be delivered to the laboratory as soon as possible to insure freshness. If held for more than one day, leaf samples should be stored in paper bags at room temperature until delivered or shipped. Analytical nutrient values are not affected if samples are allowed to air dry naturally . This becomes an issue if moisture is present and mold develops.

As an alternative to delivering directly to our laboratory, leaf and soil samples can be shipped via overnight UPS or other private couriers.

### **When in doubt.....**

If you have any questions or require assistance relating to the above, please visit [www.fglinc.com](http://www.fglinc.com) or call Fruit Growers Laboratory's Agronomic Services.