



PREPLANT DECIDUOUS FRUIT TREES PROCEDURES FOR SOIL SAMPLING

Preplant soil analyses provide useful information for measurement of fertility or toxicity levels and to substantiate amendment requirements. Preplant soil analysis data is used to determine the most appropriate plant varieties and helps determine the need for preplant fertilizers or soil amendments. This guide will help you collect representative and meaningful samples which will assure accurate laboratory analysis data.

How to sample - Soils

Preplant soil analysis requires sampling at different depths. The upper depth samples should be collected from the surface to a depth of eighteen inches (0-18") and analyzed for Comprehensive Soil Suitability analysis. The lower depth samples should be collected from a depth of nineteen to thirty-six inches (19 - 36") and should be analyzed for pH, Salinity (Ece), % Moisture, % Saturation and % Limestone (Lower Depth 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 10 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 10 cores for each sample area. For the upper depth samples, retrieve an equal amount of soil from the surface to a depth of eighteen 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. Repeat this method for the lower depth samples, retrieving an equal amount of soil from a depth of nineteen to thirty-six inches, placing the soil core samples in a clean bucket and thoroughly mix. Approximately a quart volume of this soil will be required for analysis purposes.

Labeling, Packaging, and Shipping

All soil samples should be labeled with your property name and address, sample identification, proposed plant varieties, growth stage listed as "Preplant", depth of soil collected, irrigation method to be employed, previous crops planted on site (if any) and the required analyses. Soil samples should be submitted in plastic bags as soon as possible after collection.

When in doubt

If you have any questions or require assistance relating to the above, please visit www.fglinc.com or call Fruit Growers Laboratory's Agronomic Services.

