

FRUIT TREE PROCEDURES FOR SOIL SAMPLING

Soil analysis can help determine the fertilization needs of your fruit trees and assist in identifying problem conditions if they exist. This guide will help you collect representative and meaningful samples which will assure accurate laboratory analysis data.

Preplant or postplant soil analyses provide useful information for measurement of fertility or toxicity levels and to substantiate amendment requirements.

SOIL SAMPLING - FRUIT TREE

When to Sample - Soils

Preplant soil analysis data is used to determine the most appropriate plant varieties and helps determine the need for preplant fertilizers or soil amendments.

Soil samples may be collected throughout the year to monitor soil conditions or to determine the causes for poor growth in specific locations.

How to Sample - Soils

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 1 acre. Problem areas should be sampled separately and compared with samples taken from adjacent non problem areas. 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 6-8 cores for each sample area. Samples should be collected from the irrigated area at or near the drip line of the plants. Retrieve an equal amount of soil from the surface to a depth of 18 inches (0-18"). Soil core samples should be placed in a clean bucket and thoroughly mixed. 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, plant varieties, age, stage of growth, previous problems (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.

