

SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS

IRRIGATION SUITABILITY ANALYSES

A water irrigation suitability analysis evaluates potential hazards of a water source with regard to specific ion toxicity tolerances of certain constituents. These include chloride and boron as well as total salinity for a specific crop or crops.

The analysis will also help predict how the use of the water will affect soil structure, infiltration, soil drainage and leaching capability. The analysis report will include evaluation of the likelihood or otherwise of micro irrigation plugging.

Collecting the Sample

When: The best time to collect a water sample is when the well/source is being actively used. If not in use, the well should be pumped, if possible for up to 15 minutes. This will flush out contaminants (i.e. rust, algae, etc.) that may have accumulated while the well was inactive.

Where: The best place to collect a water sample is at the point closest to the well/source or at a point on the line before any filters, fertilizer or soil amendment applicators. If you are specifically testing to determine the results of a fertilizer or soil amendment applications, an appropriate point on the line should be chosen.

Volume: Collect a minimum of 1 quart of water filling the container completely.

Container: A plastic container with a secure (screw top) cap is preferred. If not pre-cleaned, rinse the container three times with the well/source water, prior to filling.

Labeling Packages & Shipping

All water samples for irrigation suitability should be labeled with owner's name, address, well/source identification. The time, date, and name of sampler should also be included. Samples should be stored in a refrigerator or ice chest during delivery or until shipment and sent as soon as possible (within 2 days). As an alternative to delivering samples directly to our laboratory, samples can be shipped via Greyhound, UPS, other private couriers, or by U.S. Mail.

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.

