

Soil sample collection is easy, and anyone can do it, BUT you need to ensure you get an accurate and representative soil sample- the largest margin for error is in the sample collection.

Soils can vary from one spot to another in areas that look the same. This may be due to uneven application of fertilizer in previous years, or simply due to natural variation

First: Identify the reason for soil testing to allow you to set your sample collection boundary. For example, if testing soil to check why a patch of lawn is dying, just sample from this area. If you're testing soil to determine fertiliser requirements in a paddock, sample the majority of the paddock.

Second: Within your identified sample boundary, choose the area/s to be tested. Areas of a garden or paddock with a different history, different soil texture (sand/clay content) or different colour should be sampled separately.

Third: Within your collection area, you should take at least 10 small (1/4 cup) samples (sub-samples) and mix these to form a composite sample to ensure you have a representative soil sample from the area requiring testing.

Sampling Steps:

1. Scrape off surface residue/ leaf litter from your sample point. Be careful not to contaminate your sample with 'foreign' matter such as manure, fertiliser, sticks etc.
2. Using a clean shovel (or similar) dig out your sub-samples from the surface soil to a depth of 10cm; collecting them in a clean container and mixing thoroughly.
3. Extract your representative soil sample (composite), aiming for approximately 4 cups of soil, and place it in a bag (e.g. zip-lock bag) or an alternate container, and seal. Mark the bag/container with a sample description or I.D.
4. Record the details of your sample including: the date, who collected the sample, location of the sample (e.g. backyard turf), the reason for soil testing and any other information that may be relevant to the soil test data interpretation (e.g. recently fertilised, only 5cm depth etc.).
5. Collect your sample as close as practicably possible to its delivery to Cadeema, ensuring its kept cool (<10° C) and out of direct sunlight. You can drop your sample into the Cadeema office- 195a Corio St Shepparton, anytime from 8:30am-12pm or 1:30pm-4:30pm, Mon-Fri, or send it in the post/by courier to the above address.

