



HOW TO TAKE A GOOD SOIL SAMPLE

The key to sampling is taking a REPRESENTATIVE sample!

- 1.) **SAMPLE THE ROOT ZONE**—Most turfgrasses extract nutrients from the top two to three inches of soil. Therefore, soil samples for **turfgrasses should be taken to a depth of THREE INCHES**. If roots are more shallow or confined to the thatch, it is still the top three inches of soil where proper nutrients and pH should be maintained.

Most ornamental plants extract nutrients from the top five to six inches of soil. Therefore, take soil samples for **ornamentals to a depth of FIVE to SIX INCHES**.

For establishment of turf and ornamentals, a soil depth equal to the depth at which fertilizer and lime will be incorporated is the desired sampling depth.

- 2.) **TAKE A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE—A MINIMUM OF 10-12 CORES** (about one cup) are required for an accurate soil test. More cores should be taken on areas greater than 8,000 sq/ ft. For larger areas, randomly take 12-15 samples per acre, collect cores in a clean plastic bucket, mix well and place a portion (a cup or more) in the soil sample bag.
- 3.) **AVOID CONTAMINATION BY FERTILIZERS AND LIME**—Inaccurate soil tests results may occur if samples are taken within four weeks of fertilizer or lime applications. Avoid using equipment or containers which may be contaminated with fertilizer or lime.
- 4.) **PROPERLY IDENTIFY THE SAMPLE**—Mark the soil sample bag with a positive identification. Use a customer name or customer number and/or place or location of the sample.
- 5.) **Bring to Northern Nurseries** to have your soil samples analyzed.

For more information on how Northern Nurseries can help you with all your Sports Turf needs please contact your Professional Turf Sales Representative

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