When to sample?

- Early enough in the cropping cycle so you can use the results to adapt your management practices;
- When the soil is not frozen, overly wet or too dry.

**HETEROGENEOUS AND/OR BIG FIELDS**
Subdivide it into homogenous sub-areas to be sampled separately. Repeat steps 1 to 4.

**HOMOGENEOUS AND/OR SMALL FIELD**
Go directly to Step 5.

Apparatus to take a soil sample

- Permanent marker
- Spade/shovel
- 15 x 15 cm
- Bucket
- Auger
- Permanent marker

**BEFORE STARTING, MAKE SURE TO USE CLEAN MATERIAL**

**Surface soil sample**
at the primary tillage depth
(To measure main soil parameters)
0-15 cm (0-6 in)

**Deeper soil sample**
For measuring levels of microorganisms, compaction and salinity concentration
30-60 cm

**List of equipment for soil sampling**

- Auger
- Spade/shovel
- Permanent marker
- Bucket
- Sample bags
- Shovel

**Pick a spot 15x15 cm, remove any plants and scrape mulch and leaf litter from the soil surface**

**Sampling plot**
Sampling area (in m²)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>0.25</th>
<th>0.50</th>
<th>0.75</th>
<th>1.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>625</td>
<td>1250</td>
<td>1875</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dig your soil with the shovel or the auger**

**Surface soil sample**
at the primary tillage depth
(To measure main soil parameters)
0-15 cm (0-6 in)

**Deeper soil sample**
For measuring levels of microorganisms, compaction and salinity concentration
30-60 cm

**If you used a shovel, remove the excess soil in order to have an equal proportion of each layer**

**Label the plastic bag and put the equivalent of 2 cups of the soil from the bucket into it**

**Combine the samples taken from the same plot**

**REPEAT STEPS 1 TO 4 UNTIL THE PLOT IS COVERED. PUT THE SAMPLES IN THE SAME BUCKET AND MIX WELL**

**Analysis**

- Analyse your sample with a soil testing kit
- Send it to the lab

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