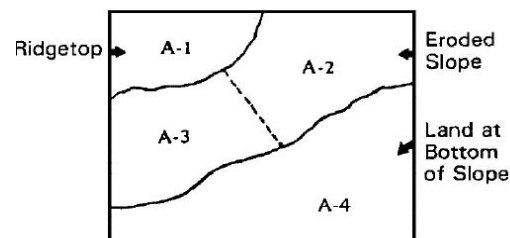


PROCEDURE FOR TAKING SOIL SAMPLES

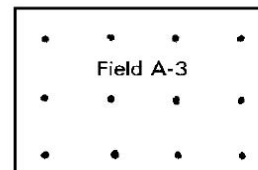
Soil tests can be only as accurate as the samples on which they are made. Proper collection of soil samples is extremely important. Chemical tests of poorly taken samples may actually be misleading.

1. **Establish a plan for soil sampling.** Prepare a farm map to include boundaries for each field. Give each field a permanent number. A soil map from the NRCS is ideal for this use. Keep this map and all soil test reports for a long term record. Plan to sample each field at 3 to 5 year intervals depending on cropping system.

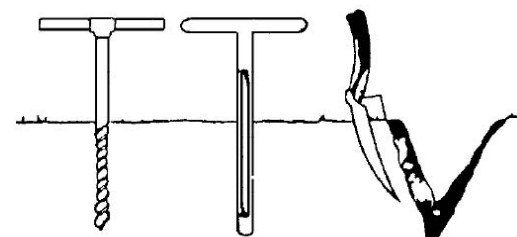


2. **Sample only uniform areas.** Soils that are different as to color, slope, elevation, crop growth, degree of erosion, or past fertilizer and lime treatment should be sampled separately.

3. **The sample should be taken from all over the area.** Soil from a single place cannot adequately represent the soil in an area. Take soil from 10 to 15 different places in the field, lawn or garden. Sample to a depth of 6 inches. Remove plant residue from the surface and use a spade, soil auger or soil sampling tube as illustrated. Place the soil in a clean bucket or container, mix thoroughly and take approximately 1 pint to send to the lab.



4. **Complete the Information Sheet on the opposite side.**



5. **Details of tests and fees.**

- a. **Regular Test: \$10.00 fee per sample.** Measures soil pH, electrical conductivity (salts), availability of nitrate-nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium and sulfur. From these data, lime and fertilization recommendations are made.
- b. **Complete Test (regular test plus iron, zinc, manganese, and copper): \$14.00 fee per sample.** This test adds the four micronutrients to the regular test described above. Micronutrients are most likely to be deficient under one or more of the following conditions: where high yields have been obtained and high fertilization rates used; deep, sandy soils; where land leveling or other operations have removed the surface soil and you are planting crops on the subsoil; or, where soil has a high pH.
- c. **Detailed Salinity Analysis: \$15.00 fee per sample.** A saturated extract procedure measures calcium, magnesium and sodium for determining the sodium adsorption ratio (SAR) and the electrical conductivity (salinity) of the soil. This test could be used where wastewater or salt water spills have occurred.
- d. **Soil Texture Analysis: \$10.00 fee per sample.** Measures the percent of sand, silt and clay and gives the textural classification.
- e. **Potting Media: \$15.00 fee per sample. For soilless mixtures only (nursery/greenhouse plants).** A saturated extract procedure for soilless mixtures. Measures nitrate-nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sodium, sulfur, iron, manganese, zinc, copper, boron, pH, salinity.
- f. **Other tests for irrigation and pond water, forage and plant tissue analysis, soil heavy metal concentration, and lime quality are also available.** Please contact the lab for details. Phone: (936) 468-4500.

6. **Mailing Instructions:** Place sample bags in a box and wrap securely. Unwrapped sample bags are often broken in the mail. Place soil sample information sheet and check or money order in an envelope inside the box of samples.

MAILING ADDRESS:

Stephen F. Austin State University
Soil, Plant and Water Analysis Laboratory
Box 9020, SFA Station
Nacogdoches, TX 75962-9020

LABORATORY LOCATION:

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Wilson Drive, SFASU Campus
Telephone: (936) 468-4500
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