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Soil Scientists and Environmental Engineers



SOIL SAMPLE SUBMISSION PROTOCOL

Soil samples submitted to Lanfax Laboratories must be consistent with this protocol.

Collection: Soil samples collected from various horizons within a soil profile, auger hole or excavated pit, need to be accurately labelled. It may help to label the bag before you collect the soil, after you have identified the horizons.

For auger holes, set out your excavated soil on a white bag as a profile. Take sample from each representative horizon, note depth: for wastewater samples – three major horizons; for agricultural samples - from horizons of interest.

If the samples are to be dispatched within a day or two of collection, no special treatment is required. For samples held for longer periods, keep sample bag open to allow soil to partially air-dry, prevent sweating and reduce bacterial actions. Re-seal prior to dispatch.

Volume of soil: For general soil analysis, a **good double handful** of soil from each sampled horizon is required. The volume applies generally to agricultural and wastewater samples. Remove rocks or stones. Do not pre-sieve the soil.

For samples requiring tests such as bulk density or permeability testing, contact the Lab for specific sampling and volume requirements.

Packaging: Samples need to be placed in a plastic bag and labelled accurately. A zip-lock plastic sample bag of 200 x 250 mm is adequate. Calico bags are acceptable, but need to be placed inside a plastic bag for transit.

Labelling: Accurately label the outside of the sample bag, be aware that marker pens may smudge. To overcome the loss of label identity, use ordinary masking tape and biro. Bags with pre-painted boxes may be marked using biro.

1. A unique number of your choosing and date of sample collection;
 - a. You can choose any description for your sample, provided you understand the labelling, as that same unique label will be used for your report; or
 - b. Some clients will use TP 1/1, TP 1/2 and TP 1/3 for the samples (TP for test pit), others may use H1, H2 and H3 (H for horizon), while others may use 0-100, 100-400, 400-600 (in millimetres) or similar.
2. You may like to include an address of the samples for that information is included on the report, making identification easier.

Postage: Australia Post offers a reasonable and reliable delivery service. Be aware that Australia Post may refuse to handle soil samples sent in ordinary paper envelopes. As Armidale is outside the "Express Post" delivery region, although your Post Office will gladly sell you this service, normal post is generally two to four days. For samples sent by Courier, please contact the Lab for delivery details. DO NOT use our street address, as we are outside town and neither Australia Post nor courier delivers to our door.

Receipt: The lab will confirm, by email, the receipt of your samples and expected date for the report.

Processing: Samples received Monday to Friday one week will be dried on Sat/Sun, analysed on Monday and Tuesday following and the report generated on Wednesday.

Terms: Strictly SEVEN days unless otherwise arranged.



Commercial and research laboratory for soil, water and plant analysis.
Soil survey and analytical assessments, landscape analysis and plant nutrient relationships,
Wastewater and effluent reuse specialists - on-site and decentralised