

TriCal Diagnostics

Guidelines for collecting and submitting soil samples

As much as possible, collect a representative series of soil samples.

Large acreage lots should be divided into sub-sampled lots (example: for a 40 acre ranch, consider dividing this up into four sections of 10 acres each). Contact our lab for suggestions.

For each sub-sampled lot, a large number of soil samples should be collected and bulked:

- Using a trowel or other tool, collect a shallow (2-6 inches deep) scoop of soil
- Place the scoop of soil into a convenient carrier, such as a large bucket
- Randomly walk and collect another soil sample some yards away
- Repeat this process until 50 or more soil scoops have been placed in the bucket
- Pour the contents of the bucket into a large container (such as a wheel barrow)
- Thoroughly mix the sample
- Collect approx. 3 cups of soil from this bulked sample
- Place the sample in a plastic bag; secure the bag

Mark the bag (or attach labels) with your name and identifying information (location where sample was collected, ranch name, lot number, etc.). If samples come from different ranches or locations, put each sample in a separate bag since they should be tested separately.

Prior to hand-delivering or shipping, most bagged soil samples can be stored at room temperature.

If using our drop-off locations (Salinas or Watsonville) or office (Gilroy or Hollister), fill out a submission form and bring the sample. These locations are closed on weekends and holidays.

If shipping, place the bag in a box. Include submission form and appropriate permit copy. Ship the sample to the Gilroy address. Do not have boxes shipped out on a Friday (it will not be delivered until Monday, thereby compromising the sample).

Addresses

Hand-delivered walk-in and drop-off samples can be left at the following locations:

TriCal
8100 Arroyo Circle
Gilroy, California 95020

For sample drop-off, open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays.

TriCal Diagnostics
8770 Highway 25
Hollister, California 95023

For sample drop-off, open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays.

Salinas drop-off location:
Grower-Shipper Association (refrigerator in back of the mail/copy room)
512 Pajaro Street
Salinas, California 93902

For sample drop-off, open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays.

Watsonville drop-off location:
UC Cooperative Extension office
1430 Freedom Blvd, Suite E
Watsonville, California 95076

For sample drop-off, open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Closed daily 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays.

For overnight/next day delivery and mailing:

TriCal, Inc.
Attn: Diagnostics
8100 Arroyo Circle
Gilroy, California 95020
Phone: 831-637-0195