



# 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 30 or more soil scoops have been placed in the bucket  
(number of scoops depends on collector time and size of field)
- Pour the contents of the bucket into a large container (such as a wheel barrow)
- Thoroughly mix the sample
- Collect approx. 2 cups of soil from this bulked sample
- Place the sample in a durable plastic bag; secure the bag
- Do not use paper bags.

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.

Submitting soil samples that are dried and/or already pulverized may decrease the sample processing time.

If delivering samples to our drop-off locations (Salinas or Watsonville) or lab (Highway 25), 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 (CA state or federal) permit copy. Ship the sample to our Highway 25 address. Do not have boxes shipped out on a Friday (it will not be delivered until Monday).

For questions please contact our TriCal Diagnostics team:

Steven Koike ([skoike@trical.com](mailto:skoike@trical.com))

Hanane Stanghellini ([HStanghellini@trical.com](mailto:HStanghellini@trical.com))

Kristi Sanchez [nematology] ([ksanchez@trical.com](mailto:ksanchez@trical.com))

### **Addresses**

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

##### TriCal Diagnostics (Lab site)

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

Perry Laboratory

424 Airport Blvd.

Watsonville, California 95076

For sample drop-off, open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays. Advisable to call ahead for open hours (831-722-7606).

#### **For overnight/next day delivery and mailing:**

TriCal Diagnostics

Attn: Steve Koike

8770 Highway 25

Hollister, CA 95023

Note: US Post does not ship to this address; one must use FedEx, UPS, or other carrier.