

Soil Sampling Guide

Transect based soil sampling

The following crops should be sampled across a line transect. Transects should be set up with markers, painting posts, or GPS coordinates to enable soil cores to be sampled from the same transect line in the future.

It is recommended that each sample be a composite of 15-20 cores.

Mixed pasture	Ryegrass	White clover
Sampling Time: annually to biennially		
Core depth: 7.5cm		

Lucerne
Sampling Time: annually from autumn to winter
Core depth: 15cm

Barley	Carrot	Garlic	Pea
Bean	Cauliflower	Kale	Potato
Beetroot	Celery	Kumara	Pumpkin/Squash
Brassica	Cereal	Lettuce	Radish
Broccoli	Choumoellier	Maize	Silverbeet
Brussel Sprout	Courgette	Oats	Spinach
Cabbage	Cucumber (glasshouse)	Onion	Turnip
Capsicum	Eggplant	Parsnip	Wheat
Sampling Time: prior to crop establishment with subsequent annual or biennial sampling for permanent or semi-permanent crops			
Core depth: 15cm			

Mixed pasture (DDT)
Sampling Time: Prior to crop establishment
Core depth: 3.75cm
Dairy conversions and established dairy farms require confirmation of their organo-chlorine (DDT) residue status for compliance with the milk supply requirements of dairy factories. For regulatory purposes samples must be submitted by an accredited sampler, however for preliminary sampling this is not a requirement.

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Non-transect based soil sampling

For the following crops, soil samples should be taken from systematic sampling points through out the block in question. These points should be marked for future sampling. When sampling from a rooting zone (the area where the majority of fine feeding roots exist) or a drip zone (the area beneath the tree canopy) ensure the sampling distance from the plant base is kept constant each year.

It is recommended that each sample be a composite of 15-20 cores.

Almonds	Citrus	Mandarin	Peach
Apple	Feijoa	Nashi	Pear
Apricot	Grapefruit	Nectarine	Persimmon
Avocado	Lemon	Olive	Pinus Radiata
Cherry	Macadamia	Orange	Plum
Chestnut			

Sampling Time: prior to crop establishment and annually from autumn to winter
Core depth: 15cm
Area to sample from: Drip zone

Alstromeria	Carnation	Lisianthus	Rose (glasshouse)
Blackberry	Chrysanthemum	Oriental Lily	Sandersonia
Blackcurrant	Gooseberry	Passionfruit	Strawberry
Blueberry	Grape	Protea	Tamarillo
Boysenberry	Gypsophila	Raspberry	Tomato (glasshouse)
Calla Lily	Kiwifruit		

Sampling Time: prior to crop establishment and annually from autumn to winter
Core depth: 15cm
Area to sample from: Root zone

Asparagus

Sampling Time: prior to crop establishment and annually from autumn to winter
Core depth: 15cm
Area to sample from: Throughout the asparagus beds

Cymbidium

Sampling Time: prior to crop establishment
Core depth: 2 – 20cm (0.5 – 1 litre of potting material)