



Soil Foodweb™ Oregon, LLC

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Sampling Instructions

basic instructions for all sample types
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General instructions for all sample types:

- Wash hands thoroughly or put on latex gloves before handling material to be sampled.
- Take samples **only** when it will be possible to package and ship them **immediately**.
- Keep samples cool but **do not freeze**. Freezing and thawing kills many beneficial microbes.
- Send samples by **Next Day Air** or similar service.

Instructions for Soil samples:

- Take several representative 1" diameter cores from the root zone (usually, upper 3" of soil).
- **Mix** cores together. Place **2 cups** of mixture in a sealable sandwich-size plastic bag.
- If testing for **mycorrhizal colonization** is needed, be sure the sample includes **roots**.
- Leave some **air** and empty space in the bag. It should be about **half full**.

Instructions for Solid Soil Amendment samples (such as compost):

- Dig several handfuls from 6 to 12 inches into the pile, halfway between the top and the ground.
- Mix the samples together. Place **2 cups** of mixture in a sealable sandwich-size plastic bag.
- Be sure to leave some **air** and empty space in the bag. It should be about **half full**.

Instructions for Liquid Soil Amendment samples (such as compost tea):

- Use a clean 1 liter plastic bottle. Beverage residue can strongly skew biology test results.
- Take several small samples from the center of your brewer and mix them together.
- Pour about 300 ml (or about 10 ounces) of the mixture into the bottle.
- A 1L bottle will be 1/3 full of tea and 2/3 of air. **A 20oz bottle needs 1/2 tea** and 1/2 air.
Yes, 1/2 air. *Beneficial organisms need oxygen. Lots of oxygen.*

Instructions for Leaf samples:

- Take a sample before application, and keep it separated from the "after" sample.
- Take the "after" sample 20-30 minutes after application.
- Use two columns on the submission form for each set of before-and-after samples. Use the Notes box to mark which sample is **before** and which is **after**.
- Collect a total of 10 leaves from different parts of 5 different plants for each sample. For example, from the **top**, **middle**, and **bottom** of the **inside** and **outside** of the plants.
- This means there will be 20 leaves per set (10 from before, 10 from after application).
- Before and after samples must be placed in **separate**, sealable plastic bags and shipped immediately to the lab for testing.