



**IMPORTANT: Once a soil sample is collected for biological analysis, it needs to reach the lab at Trace Genomics as soon as possible (see shipping instructions below).**

### To Maintain Sample Integrity:

Collect early in the week

Prevent sample overheating prior to shipping

### Labeling Sample Bags

Sample bags should be labeled with the sample name and field written on the order form.

**For example:**

**Sample name on order form: #1**

**Write on bag:** Soil #1, [Field Name]

### Selecting Sample Locations

#### ANNUALS

- Follow grid, zone or composite approach.
- Collect samples from within rows and between plants.
- Collect at the same depth as for nutrient analysis when soil is not wet or frozen.

#### PERENNIALS

- Sample within the plant row, not in between rows. The goal is to sample around the roots and root hairs.
- Cores should be collected from the irrigation wetting zone, but we advise not to sample directly below an emitter and aim ideally between the trunk or vine and emitter.

### Size of Probe

**Inner diameter:** ¾" or 1"

### Depth and Quantity of Cores

Collect and place cores directly into the sample bag until the bag is ¾ full.

**If sampling at 0-6"**

This is about 8-10 cores per sample.

**If sampling at 0-8"**

This is about 6-8 cores per sample.

**A 12" sampling depth is not recommended for biology samples.**

### Minimum Amount of Soil

**500-700 grams**

1 lb or 1.5-2 cups or ¾ of our sampling bag.

### Cleaning Probe

We recommend cleaning your equipment with an alcohol solution after each field if possible.

### Probe Lubricants

**Please avoid lubricants.** Lubricants can impact the microbial communities and biological analysis.

### Area

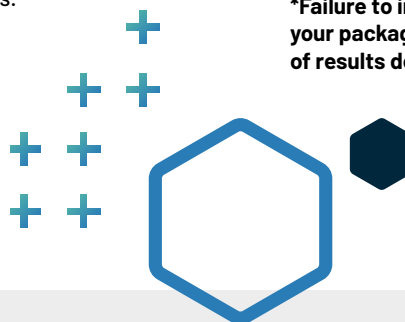
Select at least 2 locations to sample per field. Record GPS coordinates for each sample.

**Grid:** Go to the center point and go 30-ft radius; sample in a circle around center point.

**Zone:** Zigzag through the zone and collect the quantity of cores needed.

### Soil Moisture

Moisture levels of 4-25% are ideal. Samples that are too dry can be difficult for analysis. Also avoid sampling soils that are waterlogged or above field capacity; wet samples are difficult for the lab to process.



**NOTE:** As samples are collected, keep in mind that the following information is required to start an order in TraceVIEW:

Sample Name

Latitude/Longitude

Sampling Date

Minimum/Maximum Depth (with Units)

Current and Previous Crop

Core Inner Diameter (with Units)

### Shipping Instructions

- Domestic prepaid FedEx labels are pre-filled with our shipping address: **615 S Bell Ave, Ames, IA 50010**
  - Include your TraceVIEW submittal form with your order number in your package.\*
  - Include filler material (packing paper, etc.) to prevent sample bags breaking open.
- \*Failure to include order number in your package may result in a delay of results delivery.**

### Customer Support

**Do you have a question that wasn't answered in this guide? We're here to help!**

Additional supporting documentation regarding sampling practices can be found on TraceVIEW's Help Center, which is accessible through your TraceVIEW account.