

Sample Collection and Submission Instructions – Soil Samples

*Remember, taking a good sample is vital to obtaining useful laboratory results. Molecular assays conducted on plant samples **RELY HEAVILY ON QUALITY SAMPLING PROCEDURES** in order to produce quality results.*

1. Collect soil samples from the top 6 inches (down to a maximum 12 inches in depth) using a soil probe, trowel or spade. Each sample should be a composite of 5 to 15 sub-samples (depending on size of affected area) collected throughout the chosen/affected area and combined in a clean, plastic container. Try to dig straight down, rather than at an angle, so that equal amounts of soil are collected at each depth increment. Collect the same amount of soil from each sub-sampling area. **Do not send wet soil.** Wet soil should be air-dried by spreading it out on paper towels prior to packaging and sending to the laboratory.
2. Mix the composite soil samples together thoroughly, removing any large plant debris, rocks and break up any clumps or clods.
3. Remove approximately 2 cups of soil (16 oz.) and place the mixed soil in a soil sampling bag or a zipper-seal plastic bag. Seal the container and clearly label the bag with a permanent marker for identification. This ID should match the Specimen ID # listed on the Submission Form.
4. Repeat the above procedure for each separate sample to be submitted for testing. Be sure to clean or remove as much soil from the sampling device as possible before proceeding to collect another composite soil sample from a different location/affected area, to prevent cross contamination.
5. Store all soil samples in a cool, dark place until shipped to the lab.
6. All shipments must be accompanied by a completed Submission Form (and the **USDA SOIL PERMIT** if shipment is not originating from North Dakota). **Testing of samples will not begin without a completed Submission Form.** Please do not place the submission form inside the soil sample container, rather place the Submission Form inside the shipping box, but outside of the sample container. The **USDA Soil Permit** can be found on the website or by contacting the lab.
7. All shipments originating from outside the United States of America must contact the laboratory prior to shipment to ensure all federal regulations are satisfied.

If there are any questions regarding sampling and shipping procedures, please contact the National Agricultural Genotyping Center Laboratory at 701-239-1451.

Ship Samples To:

**National Agricultural Genotyping Center
1616 Albrecht Blvd N
Fargo, ND 58102**