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Soil Sampling Instructions for Logan Labs Chemical Lab Testing

Read these instructions completely before starting to sample to avoid having to restart. Keep your sample areas separate. For example, if sampling both a vegetable garden and a tree area, you will be doing two separate samples. Do not mix them.

You will need:

1. Clean quart freezer bags, one per sample.
2. Clean bucket or pail.
3. Clean shovel or trowel, or soil sampler.
4. Permanent marker
5. Cup measurer.
6. Household vinegar and a dropper or equivalent

For each area to be sampled, take multiple cores this way:

1. Using whichever tool you have, shovel, etc. dig into the area to be sampled to a depth of 6”.
2. If you cannot get to 6”, please note how deep you did get. All samples need to be taken to the same depth, 4” minimum.
3. Discard any grass or large pieces of plant or organic matter from the top of the sample.
4. Select just the middle of the sample to get a cylindrical type core, 6” long.
5. Place the core in the clean bucket.
6. Take at least 2 more cores.
7. Avoid sampling from areas that have had fertilizer or chemicals spilled on them unless that is specifically what is being tested. Avoid sampling areas that are noticeably different from the majority of the area to be tested.
8. Once you have all the cores, **gently** mix them together in the clean bucket. Take a very small amount, approximately 1 Tablespoon, and place in the cup measurer. Drop a few drops of the household vinegar onto your soil in the cup. Note if you see any fizzing or hear fizzing. You may need to hold the cup near your ear. It’s better if you do not hear fizzing, so don’t be disappointed if you don’t! If you do, please note approximately how loud it was and let us know before you ship the sample. **For example, is it a strong fizz like Alka Seltzer or a very low fizz?**
9. Label a quart bag with the permanent marker with a sample id, ex: garden bed; field 1, etc. Wipe out your cup and place 2 cups of the soil sample into the quart bag. Seal tightly.
10. Repeat this procedure for each area to be sampled.
11. Download the soil sample submission form from:
<https://www.loganlabs.com/get-started.html>
12. Fill out the submission form. Please order the tests we recommend to you and have us copied on the emailed results at farm@barkingcatfarm.com
13. Best way to ship is using USPS Flat Rate boxes for 2-3 day delivery. Faster delivery is not necessary.
14. Please call or email us with any questions before you ship the samples.
15. Don’t forget to include your submission sheet & payment. If you prefer to pay Logan Labs via credit card, note that on the sheet along with your phone number and they will contact you.