

SAMPLING PROCEDURES

Determine how many blocks you want to sample. We recommend at least two. If the area being tested is larger than 10 acres, then we recommend one or two additional samples be taken.

Visually assess the blocks being sampled. You will want to sample in an “X” pattern across the area taking 30 to 35 samples from each block being analyzed. Using a soil probe, or small garden trowel (probe is best), begin taking 1 soil sample from under the wetting pattern of the sprinkler or water discharging area. Take a sample of the top 6 - 8 inches of soil, removing any leaf litter before pulling the sample. Repeat on at least 30 different locations. Put each sample in a bucket as you go along.

After you have taken the soil sample, pull a leaf sample from the same plant the soil sample came from. You want 1/3 older leaves, 1/3 medium aged (not the oldest, not the newest), and 1/3 new leaves. On the new leaves, don’t take the brand new, opened leaf, but the 1st or 2nd leaf just back from that. This procedure insures we get a full representation of nutrients throughout the plant. Collect all the leaves in a separate bag or pouch. Mobil nutrients, like Potassium, will show up in new tissue, but could be deficient in old tissue if the plant needs to translocated it to the fruit producing wood. Sampling only newer leaves from the Spring flush will “mask” the true balance of nutrients in the plant.

After collecting all the soil and tissue samples, put all the leaves in a paper bag and tape or staple shut. *Be sure* to write on each bag the name of the block it came from. You only get 8 letters (or characters) to use for block (field) identification. As for the soil sample, mix the bucket of soil **thoroughly** so that it is well mixed. Then take 2 large hand fulls of the soil and put them into a ziploc plastic sandwich bag. Seal the bag. Mark each bag with the name of the block it came from! Remember, the recommendations we give can only be as good and as thorough as the sampling procedure, so take your time and do it correctly.

Fill out the Mid West Labs sheet with your name and the name of each block you are testing. UPS the samples to the address at the top of the sheet - BE SURE to include the Mid West sheet with the samples. You should have a full written report with the results within 14 to 16 working days after you have shipped the samples.