

EARTHFORT

SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS

635 SW WESTERN BLVD CORVALLIS, OR 97333

## Instructions for **Soil** Samples:

General tips to achieve accurate results:

- Wash hands thoroughly or put on latex gloves before handling material to be sampled.
- Take sample only when it's possible to package and ship immediately.
- Keep samples cool but do not freeze. Freezing and thawing kills many beneficial microbes.
- Follow recommended sample delivery time frames.

A helpful tool in taking soil samples is an apple corer which you can purchase at any grocery store.

- 1. Identify the problem area, or other area of interest to take the sample from.
- 2. Take sample cores from 5-10 different randomly selected spots within the area of interest. Begin at the top of the soil, so wipe away any debris or organic matter sitting on top of the soil. The best sample cores are from the root zone of the desired plant. If the root zone cannot be located cores from 3-4 inches down into the soil will work.
  - Note: Taking 5-10 cores will give you a better representation of the area than just 1-2 cores would. **IF** you are testing for mycorrhizal colonization make sure you include a <u>minimum</u> of 25 centimeters (10 inches) of roots. It is best to have some root material in every sample.
- 3. Empty those 5-10 cores into a clean bucket or bowl. Mix up the core samples.
- 4. Put 2 cups of mixture in a plastic sandwich size zip lock bag. Leave some empty space in the bag.
- 5. To send your sample you can use any carrier that can get your sample to our lab within 2-3 days. Earthfort Labs

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This test takes approximately 15 working days to complete and we do give recommendations as to what your soil needs to be at optimum health. Make sure you include a submission form which is available in a PDF form at <a href="https://www.earthfort.com">www.earthfort.com</a> (click Earthfort Labs). On this form please include the email address where you would like the report sent.

Once you receive your report via email you can call and schedule a phone appointment to discuss the results and interpret the report. (Additional consulting fees may apply) If you have any questions it's a good time to get them answered.

We look forward to doing business with you!

TEL: (541) 257-2612 FAX: (541)752-5142 EMAIL: INFO@EARTHFORT.COM WEBSITE: WWW.EARTHFORT.COM

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635 SW WESTERN BLVD CORVALLIS, OR 97333

## Instructions for Solid Soil Amendment:

General tips to achieve accurate results:

- Wash hands thoroughly or put on latex gloves before handling material to be sampled.
- Take sample only when it's possible to package and ship immediately.
- Keep samples cool but do not freeze. Freezing and thawing kills many beneficial microbes.
- Follow recommended sample delivery time frames.

An optimal sample will come from the middle of your compost pile.

- 1. Go in 6-12 inches into your compost pile, halfway between top and the ground and take one handful.
- 2. Repeat step 1 (3-5) times taking each handful from a different location of the pile.
- 3. Mix the material together in a clean bucket.
- 4. Place 2 cups of mixture in a clear sandwich size zip lock bag. Leave some empty space in the bag.
- 5. When ready to send your sample you can use a variety of carriers. As long as your sample is received by our lab within 2-3 days.

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This test takes approximately 15 working days to complete and we do give recommendations as to what your amendment needs to be at optimum health. Make sure you include a submission form which is available in a PDF form at <a href="www.earthfort.com">www.earthfort.com</a> (click Earthfort Labs). On this form please include the email address where you would like the report sent.

Once you receive your report via email you can call and schedule a phone appointment to discuss the results and interpret the report. (Additional consulting fees may apply). If you have any questions it's a good time to get them answered.

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## **Instructions for Liquid Soil Amendment:**

General tips to achieve accurate results:

- Wash hands thoroughly or put on latex gloves before handling material to be sampled.
- Take sample only when it's possible to package and ship immediately.
- Keep samples cool but do not freeze. Freezing and thawing kills many beneficial microbes.
- Follow recommended sample delivery time frames.
- 1. Take several small samples from the center of your brewer and mix them together. If possible, take samples while the brewer is running.
- 2. Pour about 300 ml (10 ounces) of the mixture into a <u>clean</u> 1 liter plastic bottle. Note that beverage residue can strongly skew biology test results so prepare a <u>clean</u> bottle.
- 3. When using a 1 liter bottle the liquid should fill it 1/3 full of tea. If you use a 20oz bottle it should be half full of tea. Important... Beneficial organisms need oxygen so **do not** fill any bottle, always leave oxygen available.
- 4. When ready to send your sample it is important to use <u>overnight</u> shipping. Tea is a fragile material which needs to be tested soon as possible due to the lack of aeration.

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This test takes approximately 15 working days to complete although preliminary results will be ready in 24 hours and we do give recommendations as to what your amendment needs to be at optimum health. Make sure you include a submission form which is available in a PDF form at <a href="https://www.earthfort.com">www.earthfort.com</a> (click Earthfort Labs). On this form please include the email address where you would like the report sent.

Once you receive your report via email you can call and schedule a phone appointment to discuss the results and interpret the report. (Additional consulting fees may apply). If you have any questions it's a good time to get them answered.

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## Instructions for **Leaf** Samples:

General tips to achieve accurate results:

- Wash hands thoroughly or put on latex gloves before handling material to be sampled.
- Take sample only when it's possible to package and ship immediately.
- Keep samples cool but do not freeze. Freezing and thawing kills many beneficial microbes.
- Follow recommended sample delivery time frames.

Generally this test is performed as a before and after comparison to evaluate an application of compost tea.

- 1. Collect about 10 leaves before application. It's best to collect from five different plants. Collect from different parts of the plant as well. For example collect from top, bottom, middle inside and outside of the plant.
- 2. Place 10 leaves in a sealable plastic bag. Label this bag as the "before" sample.
- 3. Next you will apply your tea and wait 20-30 minutes. After this application you will do the exact same sampling as before the application.
- 4. Take another 10 leaves from various places and then put in a <u>separate</u> sealable plastic bag, labeled "after".
- 5. Ship both samples together <u>overnight</u> to our lab. Overnight shipping is requested due to the time sensitive nature of the biology.

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This Leaf assay takes approximately 48hrs to process. Make sure you include a submission form which is available in a PDF form at <a href="www.earthfort.com">www.earthfort.com</a> (click Earthfort Labs). On this form please include the email address where you would like the report sent.

Once you receive your report via email you can call and schedule a phone appointment to discuss the results and interpret the report. (Additional consulting fees may apply). If you have any questions it's a good time to get them answered.

We look forward to doing business with you!

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