

HOW TO take a soil sample

DISTURBED SAMPLE

List of
equipment
for soil
sampling

**BEFORE
STARTING, MAKE
SURE TO USE
CLEAN MATERIAL**

When to sample?

- Early enough in the cropping cycle so you can use the results to adapt your management practices;
- When the soil is not frozen, overly wet or too dry

Dig your soil
with the shovel
or the auger

Surface
soil sample
at the primary
tillage depth
(to measure main
soil parameters)
0-15 cm (30 cm)

Deeper
soil sample
(to measure e.g.
for residual nitrate
nitrogen, compaction
and salt accumulation)
30-60 cm

2

REPEAT STEPS 1 TO 3 UNTIL THE PLOT IS COVERED. PUT THE SAMPLES IN THE SAME BUCKET AND MIX WELL

**HERE, I
SUGGEST A GRID
SAMPLING DESIGN BUT
OTHER DESIGNS CAN BE USED.
THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF
SAMPLES TO TAKE IS 10**

Pick a spot
15x15 cm, remove
any plants and
scrape mulch and
leaf litter from the
soil surface

sampling plot
(homogeneous part of the field)
Max: **800 x 800 mt**
(**200 x 200 mt** if
the zone is hilly)

sampling
spot
15 x 15 cm

1

3

If you used a
shovel, remove
the excess soil in
order to have an
equal proportion
of each layer

combine
the samples
taken from the
same plot

HETEROGENEOUS AND/OR BIG FIELDS
Subdivide it into homogenous sub-areas to be
sampled separately. Repeat steps 1 to 4

HOMOGENEOUS AND/OR SMALL FIELD
Go directly to Step 5

4

Label the plastic bag and
put the equivalent of 2
cups of the soil from
the bucket into it

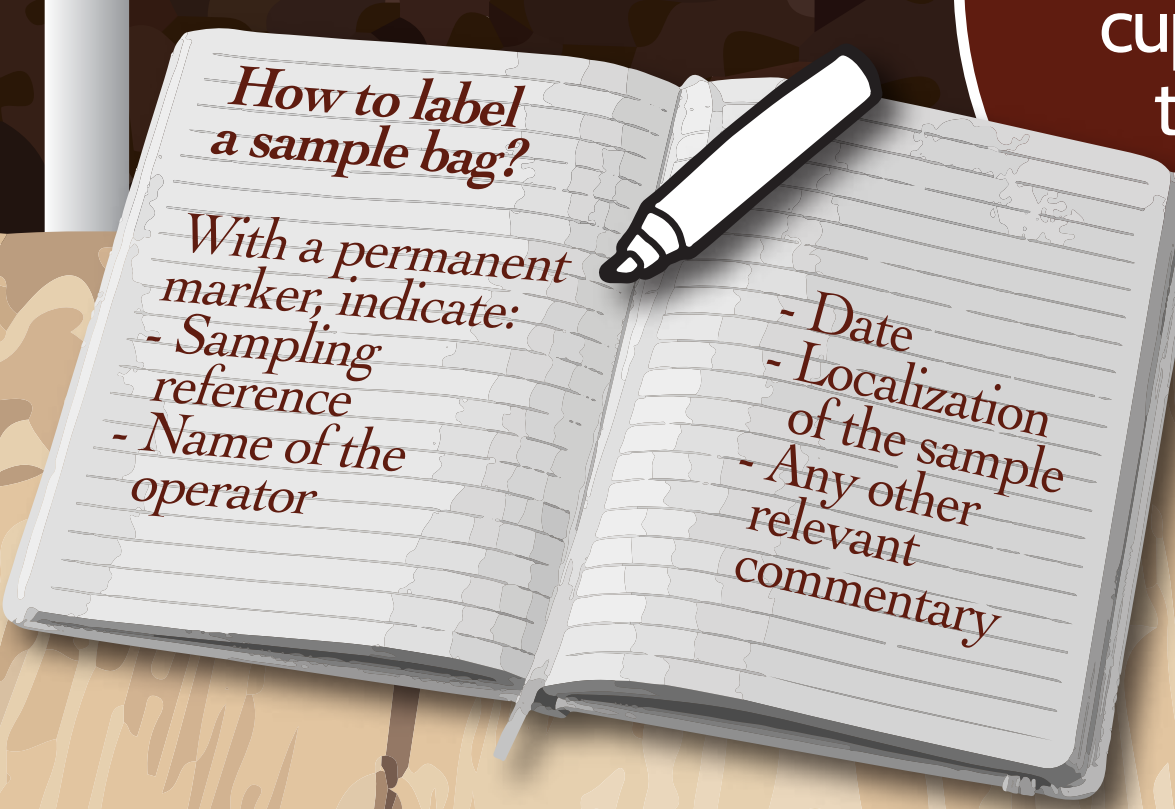
5

Analyse your sample
with a soil testing kit or
send it to the lab

Thanks to the financial support of



Soil Sample Information Sheet



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