

Soil Testing Tips

At Restora-Life Minerals we believe soil sampling is an important of farm management. A soil sample can provide irreplaceable information about the potential of your soils ability to produce crops.If you live in an area with a RLM dealer they would be happy to assist in taking soil samples. If not here are a few tips.

Tips

1. Time of year: Time of year does not matter as much as consist timing year to year. Choose a time of year that you can consistently sample your soil. This will ensure that the amendments you add are improving your soil in the correct way.
2. Sampling Pattern: Regardless of whether you are sampling a garden or a large field a consistent sampling pattern is vitally important. This can be done several ways. GPS technology can can be utilized for this. If this is not available simply use a crisscross technique that you can remember.
3. Depth: For any sample that the soil will be worked take your sample at a 6-inch depth. For any no-till field take a 4-inch sample. Sub-Soil samples should be taken at least 1 time in most situations to see if there are any potential problems at that depth. These samples should be taken at 24 inches.
4. Areas to avoid: If sampling a large field avoid any areas that are a different soil types and areas that the crops produce differently. If these areas are large enough take a separate sample. Also avoid headlands and areas such as gates fences etc.
5. Equipment: To ensure a quality sample contact either your local RLM dealer or the RLM office for a probe and the correct soil sample bags. ALL SAMPLES MUST BE SENT TO THE LAB IN BROOKSIDE SAMPLE BAGS