



## GUIDELINES FOR SOIL SAMPLING PROCEDURE

### Equipment

Spade

Auger or Soil sampler (according to the crop)

Bucket

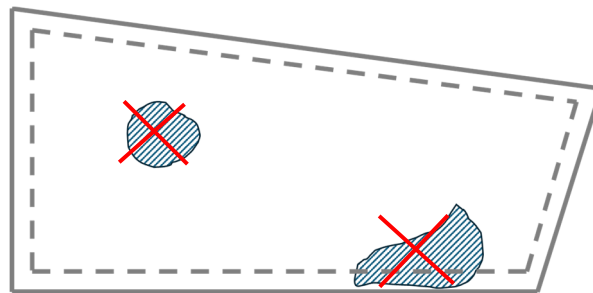
Tarp to mix soil samples

### Sampling Areas

Split the field into homogeneous areas based on the characteristics listed in  
**“Parameters to consider for homogeneity”**

Maintain a buffer zone from the field boundaries

Exclude areas with obstacles, water stagnation, ponds, or streams



### Parameters to consider for homogeneity

**Colour**

Differences in organic matter content or moisture.

**Topography**

Land position (plain, hillside, valley) affecting water and soil movement.

**Slope**

Affects drainage, erosion, and soil depth.

**Orientation (to cardinal points)**

Sun exposure (north, south, etc.) alters soil temperature and moisture.

**Crop type**

Each crop varies in nutrient consumption.

**Farming practices**

Fertilization, tillage, or irrigation affect soil fertility.

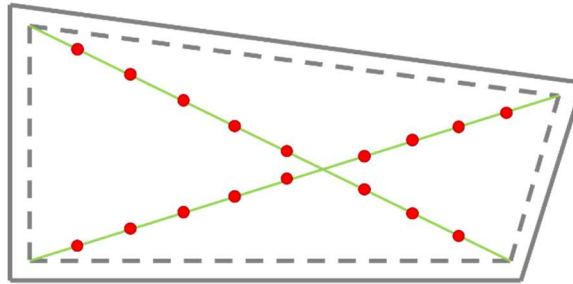
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## Sampling Procedure

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Use an “X” pattern

Select sampling points along the paths traced over the area under analysis, following the mentioned exclusion criteria



Take two samples on opposite sides of the plants, if present

Collect 6–15 subsamples per area

(e.g., 1 ha = 15 samples; over 1 ha = at least 6 samples per hectare)

Put together the samples in a bucket, removing large fragments (e.g., stones) and breaking up clumps; if needed, spread on a tarp to mix and obtain a bulk sample for each homogeneous area

Collect a sufficient soil amount to fill the test tube provided in the analysis kit → this becomes the final representative sample

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### IMPORTANT!

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#### Sampling depth

**10-15cm**

Exclude the top and bottom 1-3 cm to obtain 5-7 cm of usable subsample

#### Sampling area

Take samples near the **root zone** when plants are present

#### Tree crops

Consider the **canopy's shadow** cone and the distribution of light and shade on soil surface

Always consider the purpose of the analysis (e.g., pre-planting, fertilization, monitoring)

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### FINAL SAMPLE

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Label the test tube with the code found on the card inside the kit

Place the container in the box and send it to the laboratory using the prepaid DHL envelope

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Well done!

Once the sample has been received, the analysis results will be sent via email within 2–3 weeks.

Thank you for choosing care4soil for your soil metabolomic analysis.

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### Summary of the sampling procedure

