

## SOIL SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS

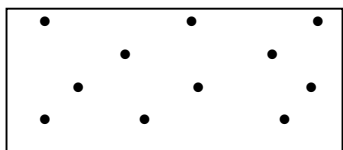
### Follow STEPS 1-3 Below

**STEP 1** A soil test is no better than the soil sample submitted for analysis. Take samples as follows:

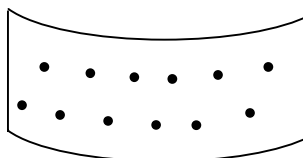
#### AGRONOMIC • VEGETABLES • SMALL FRUIT • AND HOME GARDEN CROPS

Using a trowel, shovel, or auger, and a clean pail, obtain thin slices or borings of soil from at least 13 places in a given area. Follow the diagram below to properly locate the samples. For contour strips, take 6 samples 20 feet in from the edge of the entire strip and 6 samples from the opposite side of the strip. Sample to plow depth in cultivated land; 3 to 4 inches in permanent pastures. If the field varies in kind of soil, previous fertilizer or lime treatments, or cropping history, sample each area separately.

Square, Rectangular Field or Garden



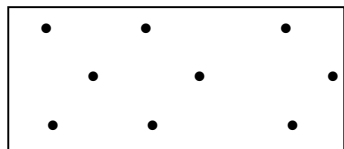
Contour Strips



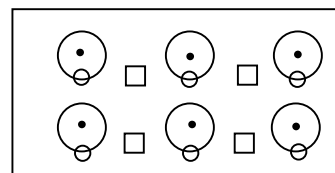
Using a soil sampling tube, auger or trowel, and a clean pail, obtain thin slices or borings of soil from 12 or more locations. Follow the diagram below to properly locate the samples. Sample to a depth of 2 to 3 inches.

If the area varies in kind of soil, previous fertilizer or lime treatments, use separate mailing kits for each different area. Discard all grass and accumulated thatch material. Do not contaminate soil with fertilizer or other materials.

If you have a situation where a maintenance recommendation for an existing turf area is desired and also a recommendation for establishing a new turf area is desired, you must use separate soil test kits for each area.



For fruit trees obtain 4 or 5 portions of soil around each tree at □ positions and an equal number from ○ positions.



**STEP 2** Mix the soil taken into one composite sample. Spread soil on newspaper in a warm room to air dry overnight. Do not heat.

**STEP 3** Take a 1 cup of representative sample and place in the soil mailing kit bag. Mail soil sample and submission form to Penn State Agricultural Analytical Services Laboratory, Tower Road, University Park, PA 16802.