

## **ADVICE ON SOIL SAMPLING**

### ***Taking the samples***

- Divide the farm into fields or areas and take approximately one sample to represent about 2 hectares.
- Ensure that all equipment is clean and free from rust or any other residue.
- Do not use brass, bronze or galvanised sampling equipment if you want to test for micronutrients e.g. zinc, copper etc.
- If available, use a soil corer or screw auger that is capable of taking a sample to the desired sampling depth of 100mm
- Separate samples will be needed from areas that are different in soil type, previous cropping history, slope, drainage or persistent poor yields.
- Avoid any areas such as old fences, ditches, drinking troughs, dung/urine patches or where fertiliser or lime has been heaped or spilled.
- Do not take samples for Phosphorus until 3-6 months after the last application of any fertiliser containing this nutrient (chemical or organic).
- The soil samples should be taken to the full 100mm depth. 20 cores should be taken from each area and placed in the soil box to make up the sample. Ensure that the box is full.
- Take a representative sample (minimum 20 cores) from the field by walking in a 'W' pattern as below.
- Avoid sampling waterlogged or very dry soils.
- Place the soil sample in a soil box and write the field number/your reference clearly on the box.

### ***Filling in the Chain of Custody***

It is very important that all soil samples are in a box and labelled clearly to aid us in logging in the samples correctly.

Ensure that all samples have an individual field or sample reference number.

The field name or number on the soil box should be clear and should correspond to the Chain of Custody form.

Please ensure that you fill out all relevant sections of the Chain of Custody form clearly. Name and postal address need to be clear as Cert is posted out. Accurately identify all of the samples you are sending in on the Chain of Custody so that we can correctly report the sample results to you.

**NB:**

**We also need to know the proposed use of the land e.g. grazing, silage, crop type etc. We need this information in order to give the accurate index values so you can then determine P and K fertiliser amounts required. Please note this beside each sample.**

### ***Sending in samples / Payment***

Once the samples have been taken they can be posted in to us or left in to reception at

**Fitz Scientific, Unit 35, Boyne Business Park, Drogheda, Co. Louth A92 D52D.**

Ensure that the samples are boxed and packed securely and that the Chain of custody has been included.

For soil analysis we require full payment prior to commencement of analysis.

**Cheque, Laser & Credit Card Payments Accepted over phone. Payments can also be made directly to our Bank Account. For further details call us on 041-9845440. Results will not be issued until payment has been received in full.**

### ***Receiving your results***

When the samples have been received and logged in you can then expect results in 10 – 15 working days.

When analysis is complete results are posted to private individuals and emailed to companies. Historical results can be accessed on line by logging into our website with password. Please contact the Laboratory on 041 9845440 ext 2 to set this up if required.

On our certificates we will have indicated the Soil Index values from your results where applicable. This will give further information on the Index values and where you can find out the fertiliser amounts required.

As we are an analytical soil testing laboratory, our service is provision of results. We have not the expertise to interpret them and advise you on soil improvement or land use etc. An Agricultural Advisor would be the next step for interpretation of your results.

### ***Re-testing***

We have an extensive quality system, which we have developed over the last 17 years. For soil testing we are accredited to ISO 17025..

We can retest samples as instructed. Any retesting will be charged at standard soil price rates valid at the date of request.

Thank you for choosing Fitz Scientific.