

# HOW TO COLLECT A SOIL SAMPLE FOR GARDENS, ATLANTIC GIANT PUMPKINS & LANDSCAPING

Congratulations! You're one step closer to having the garden, pumpkin or landscape you've been dreaming of. Now, here are a few steps we suggest following to give us the best possible sample, for the best possible results!

## **STEP 1: Tools you'll need**

A clean spade, shovel or soil probe (sold at Western Labs) and bucket are needed to collect. For the best sample integrity, make sure there isn't rust, old soil or any other things that could contaminate your sample.

## **STEP 2: Surveying your area**

Before you start collecting, remove the top one-two inches of soil in each spot you're collecting. Just as before, any animal droppings/chemical residue, will contaminate your sample, thus giving poor sample integrity. Feel free to remove any large clumps of soil in your way.

## **STEP 3: Taking the soil sample**

Choose a few areas from your plot to collect from. Using the clean spade, shovel or soil probe go 6-12 inches deep. Each time you have a sample, place it in your clean bucket. Once you've taken a satisfactory amount of samples, mix the bucket of soil thoroughly. Doing this ensures you'll have a well versed sample giving us an idea of the whole plot, instead of one specific area.

## **STEP 4: Getting your sample prepared for shipping, mailing or bringing in**

From your bucket of soil we need 2-3 cups for one nutrient test. If you're adding ANY disease testing, please take 4-6 cups. If you don't have a soil bag (we can mail these or you can pick them up) from us, simply use a plastic zip-top bag. ***PLEASE NOTE: Glass does not bid well when being shipped or mailed. If you're shipping or mailing please NO GLASS.*** From here use the most convenient way for you to get the sample to us. If you're local, you're always more than welcome to bring your sample into the office! Before you send your sample, be sure to fill out the corresponding submission form for the testing you're needing. If you'd like to attach payment (check or money order) to your paperwork you can take a 10% discount. If you'd like us to invoice you at the end of the month, please fill out the form entirely so the invoice can be sent your way!

## **STEP 5: What happens now?**

Once we have received your sample, it gets prepped and entered into our database. From there it's dried over night and ran for its proper testing by our trained technicians. After they've finished the samples for the day, our office gals look over and publish each sample. This is when you'll receive an email with your results attached! If you need assistance with understanding your report, simply email back or call in with your lab number (top right corner). Our soil scientist is always happy to assist in any way he can! After reviewing your results you can take your report into a local fertilizer company or buy each item yourself to mix.

**Please remember, the best sample starts with you!**  
**As always, if you need further assistance please contact us!**