

Agri *Resource*

Soil Sample Collection Orchards

Timing: The best time to soil sample orchard crops is Mid-July through Mid- August. It is permissible to sample anytime due to soil nutrient levels changing slowly.

Orchards are identified as areas of "blocks." A block is defined as an area within an orchard that:

- Consists of plantings of the same age and species
- Has the same or similar soil type
- Can be managed as one unit

Tools:

- Soil core sampler
- Shovel

Method:

- 1) Clear away weeds and organic material
- 2) Take 7 – 10 sub-samples for blocks that are 1 acre or less
- 3) Take 10 – 25 sub-samples for blocks that are 1 to 10 acres
- 4) For all other blocks take a minimum of 15 sub-samples.
- 5) Proper sample identification is required. Identifying block location ensures good record keeping. Example: block, variety, GPS/coordinates

Soil Sample Frequency:

<u>Life Cycle Stage</u>	<u>Sampling Frequency</u>
Pre-Plant	Up to 2 times <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prior to bio-renovation• Prior to tree establishment
Non-Bearing	Do not sample
Bearing	At least every 3 years

Biorenovation: Restoring old orchards due to harboring a variety of pathogenic fungi, nematode species, herbicide residuals, depressed pH levels as well as compaction.

Soil sample depth: 1" to 8" depth recommended, in addition it is recommended to take a second core sample of 8" to 16" but is not essential.