



Procedure for collecting and posting samples for Soil Analysis

The Soil Analysis service consists of two laboratory tests – Mehlich 3 and Saturated Paste. This provides complete soil mineral analysis to provide results of both long-term nutrition, and what's immediately available.

If a soil test is going to be a reliable guide for the addition of amendments, the sample tested must represent the soil condition of the growing area. Don't just rush in and grab a handful. Read and follow the instructions carefully, the laboratory results will tell you only what is in the sample you send. It is the sample takers responsibility to take a truly representative and unbiased sample of the pots or beds in question. We use Logan Labs in the USA for analysis, they process a huge amount of living soil samples and we have found their service and accuracy the best for our needs.

Potting Soil Sampling

Collect a minimum of three samples per pot or bed, if growing in a large bed taking more samples is better. Wear gloves. Scrape back any mulch and push aside the first 2-3cm of soil. Take a handful sized sample between a depth of 3-20cm. Avoid getting any leaf, stem or above ground plant material in the soil sample. Some small root material is fine.

Mix all samples together in a clean bucket. We need 1L of soil in total in 2 x 500ml sealable plastic bags. Label the bags with permanent marker your name, and if sending multiple samples also use a reference such as a name or number (e.g. Indoor Bed 1, Outside Bed 2, LS Pots 3).

Post to us at the address below, and email to notify us of the posting. Include tracking number if available.

For this **Soil Analysis** there is an additional postage cost, we will contact you for this payment before samples are sent to the lab in the USA. Our postage cost for a small parcel to the USA is £35-40 but we share this cost over the number of samples we are sending. £40 is the worst case, typically £10-£15 but can be as low as £5 if we group many samples together. If you are not in a rush, we can hold the sample until the cost can be shared.

If you have any questions prior to sending samples, please get in touch.

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