

Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health

Soil Sampling Packaging and Shipping Protocol

For more information please see our training video at: bit.ly/SoilHealthSampling

All soil samples being sent to the Cornell Soil Health Laboratory (CSHL) should follow the shipping and packaging instructions provided below. If you have additional questions about how to package and ship your samples, please contact the CSHL at soilhealth@cornell.edu or 607-227-6055.

Soil sampling storage requirements

- Always keep soil samples out of direct sunlight and away from heat, preferably in a cooler
- Samples should be stored in a refrigerator or cold room after returning from the field

Packaging requirements

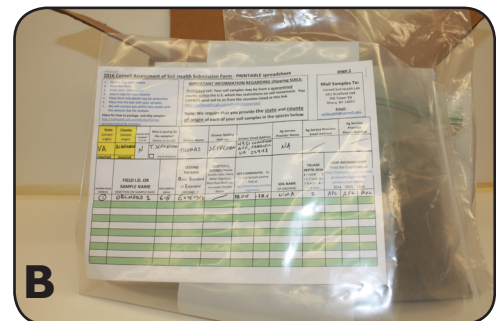
1. Bag each individual soil sample in a 1-gallon plastic (Ziploc) bag. Freezer bags are preferred. Make sure the bag is properly labeled.
2. Double Ziplock bag your soil sample (A). You can either place the single sample within another 1-gallon plastic bag or place multiple sample bags in a secondary, larger plastic bag.
3. Download and print the Submission Form (bit.ly/CASHforms). Enter the information for each sample. Include your penetrometer readings (optional). Save one copy for your records. **It is important to enter the state and county** from where the soil sample was taken on the form.
4. Place the double-bagged sample(s) in a cardboard box. The size of the box depends on the number of samples. In general we recommend a small USPS Flat Rate Box for a single sample or a Priority Mail Medium Flat Rate box for up to 6 samples.
5. Place the submission form in the box, on top of the packaging material. Protect the form within its own plastic bag (B).
6. Add packing material (such as crumpled paper or bubble wrap) to minimize sample movement within the box. Add ice packs (also within their own plastic bags) only if shipping during the hottest days of summer (C). Ice packs or coolers will not be returned to the sender.

Shipping

Send sample(s) and submission form(s) to:
Cornell Soil Health Laboratory
G01 Bradfield Hall
306 Tower Road
Ithaca, NY 14853

Complete samples will consist of:

- A One clearly labeled, plastic bag containing 3 to 6 cups of well mixed soil, **double bagged**.
- B A completed submission form with **state and county entered** and penetrometer readings (optional) clearly recorded.
- C A shipping box with double-bagged samples, **packing material**, submission forms and ice packs on hottest summer days.



ABOVE. The steps of packaging and shipping a soil health sample. Ship to Cornell as soon as possible.

