

How to Take a Soil Sample

Soil Analysis Test for Mineral Content

Information:

Soil analysis results are only as accurate as the quality of the sample taken, so it is crucial to take a good representative sample of your soil.

The analysis is based on a small sample and is representative of a larger sample. It is important that the analysis results are therefore as accurate as can be (based on a representative sample) to be as useful as possible.

Our report will identify surpluses or deficits in your soil and make recommendations on re-dressing the imbalances.

We can also provide you with quotation to supply a bespoke, trace-mineral paddock dressing to balance the soil chemistry (specifically for horse pasture).

Please follow the steps below closely once you have paid for your forage analysis test(s):

Taking Samples:

- As a general rule, up to 25 Acres (10Ha) can be sampled in one batch, providing each field is uniform regarding soil type, past usage, fertiliser usage. Large fields that are not uniform should be subdivided and sampled separately.
- Try to take samples from areas which are generally representative of your fields. Avoid taking samples from gateways, fence lines, near feeders, or favourite horse poo sites!
- Use a clean/new auger, hand trowel or spade (stainless steel) and a clean plastic bucket.
- Walk the fields to be sampled in a "W" shape. You will need to take 20 samples at regular points along the "W" as you walk. At each chosen point remove the top 5cm (2") of soil and discard. Take a sample to a depth of 10cm - 15cm (4" - 6") and place in the bucket.
- When you have taken the 20 samples, thoroughly mix all the samples together.

If you are unsure about taking your forage samples, please email us on:

healthyhorseco@gmail.com or phone us on **07593 047181** for help and guidance.

Please note: We will only process samples for analysis where we have already received the correct payment in advance for each test required. To avoid any additional costs due to price increases by the labs, please send your sample to us within 4 months of purchasing a Soil Analysis.

Packaging:

1. Take a sample from this mixed mixture and fill an appropriately sized sample bag – a large sealable sandwich bag will be fine. **Each sample for testing must weigh 400 grams**, and we will require a separate sample for each test ordered. **Important:** Please do not be tempted to send samples which weigh more than 400 grams. For bio-security and possible contamination reasons we are unable to open the bag to remove some of the sample before processing. In the event that samples are over or under the specified weight, or not in a sealed bag, we will contact you and ask you to send another sample for processing. The original sample will be destroyed.
2. Squeeze any air from the bag(s) and seal. Using a permanent marker pen, write on each sample bag - your surname, post code, and also how many acres the sample has been taken from. Please do not write any other information on the bag(s).
3. Place the samples in a large envelope and post them immediately to The Healthy Horse Company at the address above.

Results:

The analysis results will take 2 – 3 weeks to process. The results will be sent to you by email. Please ensure the email: **healthyhorseco@gmail.com** is in your list of email contacts, otherwise the results may go into your Junk Folder.