



# **RICHGRO LABORATORY SERVICES**

## **SAMPLING & DELIVERY PROCEDURES**

### **Soil Analysis**

Sampling should be done by clean augers, spades and other tools. Between sampling different areas or batches clean all used tools by washing or wiping with sanitizing solution.

When preparing a composite sample, each core should be of the same diameter and should penetrate soil to the same depth.

Soil sample should be submitted to the Laboratory in a plastic bag or container, clearly labeled and should be about 700g to 1 kg in weight for full soil analysis.

### **Plant Tissue Analysis**

Plant samples are collected for diagnostic testing to establish the cause of particular (or suspected) disorder.

Therefore the plant tops sample taken for analysis must represent the whole population of plants which need to be tested or the sample can consist of only a number of whole tops or carefully selected leaves (Usually whole tops are taken for the seedlings and leaves only for the woody plants). All the leaves collected must be of the same age and have the same position on the plants.

The representative plant sample should be collected with clean hands or clean gloves, labeled and submitted to the Laboratory in a brown paper bag ASAP. Each sample should contain 40-50 leaves for full plant analysis.

### **Water Analysis**

Collect the representative water sample in clean, translucent, low density polyethylene bottles to minimize any contamination. Representative sample for bore waters should be obtained by pumping for app. 30 minutes before collecting the sample for testing. Fill the bottle completely and seal the stopper air-tight to avoid aeration of the sample.

Label sample clearly and forward it to the Laboratory immediately to avoid deterioration. If not possible, refrigerate or ice samples at a temperature of not more than 4°C in order to retard biological activity.

Submit 1 litre of water sample to the Lab for full water analysis.

## **Pathogen Testing**

Collect the representative sample of material for pathogen testing in a plastic bag or container using clean gloves or clean tools.

Sample about 1 kg or 1 L of sample, label sample clearly and submit it to the Laboratory within a few days after collection.

## **Growing Media Testing**

### **(Potting Mixes, Soil Conditioners & Mulches, Garden Soils & Soil Blends)**

A representative sample is very important for accurate testing.

Use a clean, thin-walled tube to sample media in containers or submit whole containers containing media for testing. For sampling growing media from heaps or stock piles use a clean, long sampling tube or shovel and collect sample deeply into heap or pile from about 10 to 15 different directions and make up to the composite sample in the clean plastic bag or container.

Submit about 5 litres of representative growing media sample to the Laboratory for complete material analysis as per AS 3743, AS 4454 & AS 4419 testing schedule.

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