

Soil sampling – instructions

One composite sample represents a whole field. These six points decide whether the report is right.



Soil Balancing · Haney · Totalaufschluss

1 When

Possible all year round. Best: spring before the first fertilisation or summer/autumn after harvest. At least 3 weeks after the last fertilisation, soil moist but workable. For Haney also 2–3 weeks after tillage – and note that in dry spells and winter cold microbial activity is naturally lower.

2 Equipment

Stainless-steel auger or spade, clean bucket, 2–3 l zip bag, waterproof marker. No galvanised tools (zinc!) and no gloves that have touched fertiliser.

3 15–20 cores

Evenly over the field in a zigzag. Keep away from field edges, headlands, storage sites and tracks. Split fields over 5 ha or with visibly different soil.

4 Depth

Arable approx. 0–20 cm. Grassland and shallow soils 0–10 cm. Always the same depth for all cores – and note it on the submission form.

5 Mix & fill

Mix all cores well in the bucket, remove stones and plant residues. Approx. 600 g per sample, approx. 1 kg for Soil Balancing + Haney combined.

6 Label & ship

Bag with number, name and field name – exactly as on the submission form. For Haney, prick a few pin holes in the top of the sealed bag so the microbes can breathe. Ship immediately, do not leave in the sun. Enclose the signed submission form.

Checklist before shipping

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| ☐ Submission form filled in completely and signed | ☐ Haney: pin holes in the bag |
| ☐ Sample bag labelled exactly as on the form | ☐ Package to the right lab: Soil Balancing → AGROLAB Sarstedt · Haney only → IAU Freyburg |
| ☐ Same depth for all cores, depth noted | ☐ Copy of the form kept for yourself |
| ☐ Approx. 600 g (1 kg for SB + Haney) per sample | |

Ship to: AGROLAB Agrar GmbH, Breslauer Straße 60, 31157 Sarstedt, Germany (Soil Balancing, also with Haney) · Institut für Agrar- und Umweltanalytik, Querfurter Straße 9, 06632 Freyburg/Unstrut, Germany (Haney only, total digestion)