

# Sampling Protocol and Shipping Instructions

## For Soil

1. Take at least 3 core-samples 3 -5inches deep (in the rhizosphere) with an apple corer or soil sampler probe in random locations of the field or bed you want to sample in order to get a good representation of the general area.
2. Place the core samples in a bag. Then label this bag (using a permanent marker) and index it using a clear numbering system (e.g. S1), and mark its location. Make some notes on any distinguishing features that may be apparent e.g. "This is in a depression" or "This is where the farmer had previously stored 2 tonnes of lime last year" etc.
3. For multiple samples, Move to another location and take a further 3 core-samples, placing these core-samples in a *different bag*. Label and index the bag appropriately (e.g. S2) and mark the reference on the map. Make notes as appropriate.
4. **DO NOT** remove the air in the bag. You want to maintain air in the bag so the organisms don't run out of air.
5. Once you have collected the sample, immediately take to your local mail service and send it with 1-2 day shipping. Call 801-671-2223 to let us know it is coming and we know to look out for it. Send the sample to the following address:

McKinley Smoot

679 E 3200 N Kamas, UT 84036

Repeat steps 1-5 above for Weedy patches *using a different reference*( e .g. W1, W2 ... etc.) Then repeat the process for sick plants and so on. Comparing the results from each of these areas will offer you an insight into the overall state of the land you are working on.

## For Compost

Take 1 tsp (approx 4 grams or 4 ml) from a minimum of 5 different areas from a small compost pile or 20 different areas from a large windrow and mix in a bag. Take the teaspoons from various locations and depths within the pile and subsequently combine them into a single labeled sandwich-sized plastic bag. Doing this helps ensure that the sample is representative of the entire pile.

For any single sample, please ensure that you do not fill the bag more than half-way with material. (Note: to reduce the amount of sample material, you may combine and thoroughly

mix the sample material separately, in a sterile container, and then place a smaller amount of the mixture in the sandwich bag).

Seal the bag with the air left inside it – do not expel the air from the bag, as this will limit the oxygen available to the biology in the sample which may result in anaerobic conditions being formed.

**Label:** All sample bags should be labeled **with the name of the sample** on the \*outside\* using permanent marker or an affixed label. Please **do not** put any identifying information about your sample on a piece of paper and place it inside the bag. The paper will disintegrate, become food for microbes, and potentially change the biology of your sample.

**Label:** All sample bags should be labeled **with the name of the sample** on the \*outside\* using permanent marker or an affixed label. Please **do not** put any identifying information about your sample on a piece of paper and place it inside the bag. The paper will disintegrate, become food for microbes, and potentially change the biology of your sample.

Once you have collected the sample, immediately take to your local mail service and send it with 1-2 day shipping. Call 801-671-2223 to let us know it is coming and we know to look out for it. Send the sample to the following address:

McKinley Smoot

679 E 3200 N Kamas, UT 84036

## **For Liquid Samples**

1. Pour liquid into a clean, not-breakable 4 to 8 oz container with a sealable opening (e.g. plastic water bottle with screw cap). Clean the inside of the container if you are not certain that the bottle held only water previously.
2. Fill the container 1/3 full with the liquid you want to have assessed. Leave the remainder of the container empty to maximize head space for air exchange.
3. Once the screw cap is tightly sealed, cover it with duct tape and place it in a sealed plastic bag.
4. Be sure that the container is clearly labeled **with the name of the sample** on the \*outside\* using a permanent marker or an affixed label.
5. Once you have collected the sample, immediately take to your local mail service and send it with 1-2 day shipping. Call 801-671-2223 to let us know it is coming and we know to look out for it. Send the sample to the following address:

McKinley Smoot

679 E 3200 N Kamas, UT 84036

