

How To Take A Nematode Sample

Nematode SOIL Sample

When to Sample

Soil samples can be collected at any time during the year, as long as the sampling tool can be inserted into the ground to an 8 to 12 inch depth. If possible, avoid sampling excessively wet or dry soils as moisture extremes make both collection and sample preparation difficult. Nematode populations are also subject to seasonal fluctuations. The largest population generally occurs when root growth is most rapid, particularly in Spring, several weeks after a susceptible crop is planted. Populations and nematode activity will decrease as root growth declines and soil temperature cools below 60°F or rises above 85°F. Although nematode populations are highest in the Spring, the threshold levels used in making nematode recommendations are usually based on samples collected from August through February.

How to Sample

Take samples when soil is moist following the procedure outlined above for taking a soil sample. When collecting samples from suspected nematode problem areas in established crops, collect samples from the margin of the affected area where plants are showing moderate symptoms. Place samples in a nematode bag or plastic bag and seal securely. Do not allow samples to dry out or exceed 100°F for more than 30 minutes. Ship samples as soon as possible.

Nematode ROOT Sample

Carefully dig up 4-5 plants with suspected nematode injury. Remove the top portion of the plants and place roots packed in soil inside a nematode bag or plastic bag. Do not allow samples to dry out. Ship as soon as possible.