

How to Collect and Submit a COMPOST/MANURE Sample

Oregon State University- Soil Health Lab

Recommendation: Review this [U of Idaho Extension publication \(PNW 673\)](#) on compost/manure sampling AND Seek advisement from your [local OSU county extension professional](#).

1. **Identify your reason for sampling.**
2. **Determine when you will sample.**
 - a. Sample the manure/compost as close as possible to the time when you will apply it as fertilizer.
3. **Collect the samples.**
 - a. Gather your tools (shovel and clean buckets).
 - b. Collect many subsamples from different locations across the pile to combine into one composite sample representative of your pile.
4. **Prepare sample for transport to the lab.**
 - a. Place 1-2 cups of your sample into a **plastic** bag for analysis.
 - b. Label the bag with your name, date, field ID, and/or depth of sampling.
 - c. **Refrigerate your sample immediately after collection.** Changes in temperature and humidity alter microbial activity that is responsible for nitrogen mineralization.
5. **Fill out a [Compost/Manure Submission Form](#).**
6. **Ship samples AND submission form to the address below.** If you'd like to drop-off samples to the lab, contact us via email first. For samples that must be kept cool, ship with insulating material or an icepack.

OSU Soil Health Lab

3017 Ag Life Sciences Bldg

Corvallis, OR 97331

7. **Contact the lab via email if you'd like to be notified when samples arrive.**

Email: Soil.lab@oregonstate.edu

NOTE:

- **Be consistent with your sampling plan from year to year.**
- **Do NOT** mail or drop off a check with your samples. When the report is complete, you will receive an invoice and the completed report **via email** with information about how to pay.
- You **MUST** report the county and state from which samples are collected. **If samples are from out- of-state, you MUST contact the lab BEFORE shipping.** We are an APHIS permit holder for domestic and international samples.