HOW TO COLLECT YOUR SOIL SAMPLES

Dr. Dirt • Natural Healing for Plants and People

KEEP EVERY SAMPLE LOOSE. NEVER PRESS, PACK, OR COMPACT THE SOIL.

CONTAINER AND STORAGE

- Clean capped tubes are preferred.
- A clean sealed plastic bag may replace a tube when needed.
- Place tubes or plastic bags inside a paper bag to keep samples dark and cool.
- Keep samples shaded. Do not leave them in direct sun or a hot vehicle.
- Collect as close to testing time as possible.
- Write down any delay longer than two hours.

LABEL EVERY SAMPLE

- Your name and collection time
- Crop or plant being evaluated
- Sample location or bed
- Depth: top, middle, or deep
- Any treatment or condition being compared

Bring only a small amount. A teaspoon-sized scoop from each location is enough for core testing.

COLLECT A SIX-INCH VERTICAL PROFILE

1. Scrape away surface mulch or loose leaves to expose bare soil.
2. Dig a vertical hole straight down to approximately six inches.
3. Take a small, loose scoop from each depth below. Do not squeeze or pack it.

TOP	MIDDLE	DEEP
Surface to 1 inch	3–4 inch root zone	Near the 6-inch floor

OPTION 1: RAPID BLEND

One sample • $15 core test

Place equal loose scoops from all three depths into one container. This provides a quick blended overview and produces one prescription.

OPTION 2: THREE-LAYER PROFILE

Three separate samples • $30 core testing

Keep top, middle, and deep soil in separate labeled containers. This recommended profile can reveal depth changes while producing one prescription.

PLANT MATERIAL FOR BRIX OR PLANT NPK

- Bring fresh young leaves or a whole small plant so fresh growth can be selected.
- Keep plant material shaded, cool, and as fresh as possible.
- **Never collect Brix material after noon. No exceptions.**
- Label it with crop, location, collection time, and treatments being compared.

Save nutrients. Reduce runoff. Representative samples support more targeted prescriptions and can reduce unnecessary applications. Excess nutrients can move through porous ground and waterways, contributing to coastal algal blooms and aggressive invasive plant growth.

Maku‘u Farmers Market • Sundays • 7:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

drdirt@plantsandpeople.earth