

Soil Health Assessment & Plan Sample Collection Guide

1 Define the Goal

Common goals include:

- setting a benchmark to compare to future assessments for identifying trends
- understanding the most important limitations and risks to the soil's productivity
- comparing good and poor areas of a field

2 Select a Field

Variability must be accounted for in selecting fields and sites to sample. Consider the goal that was stated and decide which field and what area(s) within it should be sampled to support the goal. For more detailed considerations see the [detailed Guidebook](#)

3 Select Sample Location

For benchmarking and comparison, collect samples from a relatively small area. If good data exists for the field (e.g. yield index maps, soil property maps) or if reliable management zones have been established, this information can guide the selection of a sampling location(s) within the field. For more detailed considerations see the [detailed Guidebook](#).

4 Fill out Survey 123- In-Office

Enter Survey information to generate sample ID for collection. Information collected will depend on which add-on modules you selected. At minimum to generate a sample ID a Field Name and Sample Location must be submitted. Get Started Here—[Link to Survey 123](#)

5 Receive Email with Sample ID & Link to Survey 123 In-Field

6 Collect Samples in Field & Submit Survey 123 In-Field

While collecting samples in Field use the Survey 123 app to record location, sample type, texture, and optional add-on modules (eg. Visual evaluation of soil structure)

Collect 15-20 soil cores to a depth of 15 cm (6 in) from random locations within the sampling area. Transfer into soil sample containers labelled with the Sample ID in your email from OMAFRA. Use remaining soil from the composite sample to determine the texture, if required.

7 Submit Soil Samples to Lab

For a list of labs currently offering the SHAP testing package, see: [Participating Soil Testing Labs](#)