

MICROBIOLOGY REPORT –

DETAILED SAMPLING AND SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

Study Design

For Soil: Consider your area of interest. Is it variable or homogenous in nature (eg. Look for wet/dry areas, different plant communities, hills/valleys). You want each “habitat” or plant species to be its own sample.

- *Single plant/homogenous area:* Are the soil types, microclimates, and plants being grown consistent? Then you can take 4 – 5 soil samples at random locations and combine them in to one bag.
 - o *For larger homogenous areas (>0.25 acre),* you may take 10 – 20 subsamples per area and combine in to one bag.
- *Diverse plants/habitats:* Are there variables that make one area different from another? See these as separate samples. Take 4 – 5 randomly selected soil samples from each area and combine them in to one bag, then do the same for the next area, for as many areas that are different and of interest. For example “dry area” and “wet area” would be two different sample bags.

For compost: take 1tsp 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 teaspoons from various depths for a representation of the entire pile.

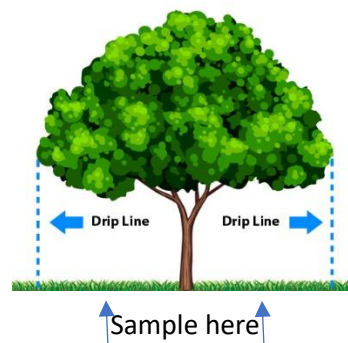
For a liquid like compost tea or extract: make sure liquid is thoroughly mixed and sample from 4-5 locations in the container.

If you are interested in testing the effects of a treatment or monitoring project, I recommend at least one “before” and one “after” soil sample. If using organic soil practices, I recommend looking at the soil for at least 3 years (since it takes time to restore the soil). Contact us if you need any help with your study design.

Sample Location

For a yard, field or compost pile where you are interested in the biology of the area as a whole, *sample randomly throughout the area.*

If you are interested in the soil biology around specific trees or shrubs of interest, *sample randomly half way between the stem and the dripline* (reach of the outermost branches).



Materials

You will need sandwich bag (plastic), a permeant marker, and an apple corer or hand trowel (trowel recommended for compost piles). Use gloves or clean hands and clean tools when sampling.

Sampling Technique

1. Gather your materials,
2. Clear the surface of any debris including grass and leaf litter,
3. Insert the corer/trowel 10 to 12 cm (4 to 5 inches) deep, and scoop out an area that matches the dimensions of the apple corer,
4. Place this subsample in the sandwich bag and use the permeant marker to *label on the outside with a detailed sample name (eg. Garden Bed #1), your name, and the date,*
5. Repeat for a total of 4 – 5 randomly selected samples within the area of interest and combine in to the same bag,
6. Repeat this procedure for every unique plant/habitat, as determined in your study design.

Packaging and Mailing

Your sample contains living microorganisms that need to breathe, so leave the sandwich bag open a tiny bit and do not squeeze all the air out. Only fill bag about $\frac{1}{2}$, for a total of 2 – 3 cups. For liquids put in a clean plastic water bottle and only fill about $\frac{1}{4}$. Find a small box or padded envelope and sit sample(s) inside. You may want to fill any extra space with loose packaging such as crumpled paper, to ensure there isn't any tipping and spilling while in transport. Print and complete the attached *Microscope Analysis Submission Form* and include it in the package containing your samples. Seal the box, take it to your preferred courier, and opt for same or next-day shipping to:

REWILD
4160 Concession 7
Uxbridge, Ontario
L9P 1R4

Please only mail your sample so that it arrives during Tuesday – Thursday. Samples are processed on Fridays; results will be emailed back to you the following week. Please note: you are responsible for all costs related to packaging and shipping of the sample.

Payment

Contact rewildecoservices@gmail.com for a quote

Send E-transfer to colleenmdempster@gmail.com before sending samples or cheque to Colleen Dempster included in the sample box.

