

Truffles mushrooms mycorrhizas

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Soil Sampling Instructions

You need to collect a soil sample from the soil surface down to 25 cm. One of the simplest methods I have found, in compacted soil, is to use a 25 mm (1") diameter and 25 cm long drill bit in a rechargeable electric drill with a large enough chuck - usually 10 to 12 mm diameter. Before you start you should first remove any vegetation but do not remove any of the surface soil – a pair of hedge trimmers can be useful. Don't use a dirty or oil-covered drill bit or one that is painted - the paint might contain substances that could upset the soil analyses.



I have recently upgraded my drill to an 18-volt model with lots of torque which can just about turn you inside out when the drill bit catches on a stone. **It really is important to use two hands when using a quality drill!** See this web site: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2I9d4yDivlk>

In less compacted soils you can use a larger diameter auger¹. Alternatively, a trowel will do, although in compacted soils you may first need to dig 25 cm deep holes with a spade and then shave a layer off the side of each hole using your trowel. Try not to bias your sample with the more easily accessible topsoil.

Take samples from at least 20 spots around the block avoiding soil around water troughs, gates, headlands, dung or urine patches, stock camps, abnormally wet or dry spots, or other areas likely to have abnormal fertility. Put the samples from each of the 20 holes into a clean plastic bucket. When you have taken all 20 samples thoroughly mix the soil in the bucket and put at least half a kilogram into a labelled, thick-walled, zip-lock polythene bag. Seal the bag. Repeat for other blocks you would like to sample. The cost of a single soil analysis is listed at:
<http://www.trufflesandmushrooms.co.nz/page7.html>

If you are sampling a large area where the soil is unlikely to be uniform, you should consider submitting more than one sample to the lab.

Print a copy of the attached soil test order form and, in the appropriate places, enter the dates you took the soil sample and send it to the lab. Send the form together with the samples by courier to:

Attn: Sample Reception, Eurofins Laboratories, 35 O'Rorke Road, Penrose, Auckland 1061, New Zealand.

Soil samples from outside New Zealand If you are sending a sample from overseas there are some additional instructions you must follow. If you don't have a New Zealand Import Permit please contact me. Make sure you seal the sample bag(s) and make sure there is no soil on the outer surface of the bag. Put each bag inside a second bag, seal and label. There must not be any soil on the outside of the second bag. Now put the double-bagged samples inside a clean cardboard box or courier bag with a copy of the import permit and order form inside. Seal the box/bag. Fold a second copy of the import permit and put it in a clear plastic bag. Tape this to the outside of the box/courier bag with the words "Import Permit" visible.

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¹ Go to <https://www.trademe.co.nz> and look for **Augers & post hole borers**