

Planning Soil Sampling Worksheet

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When?

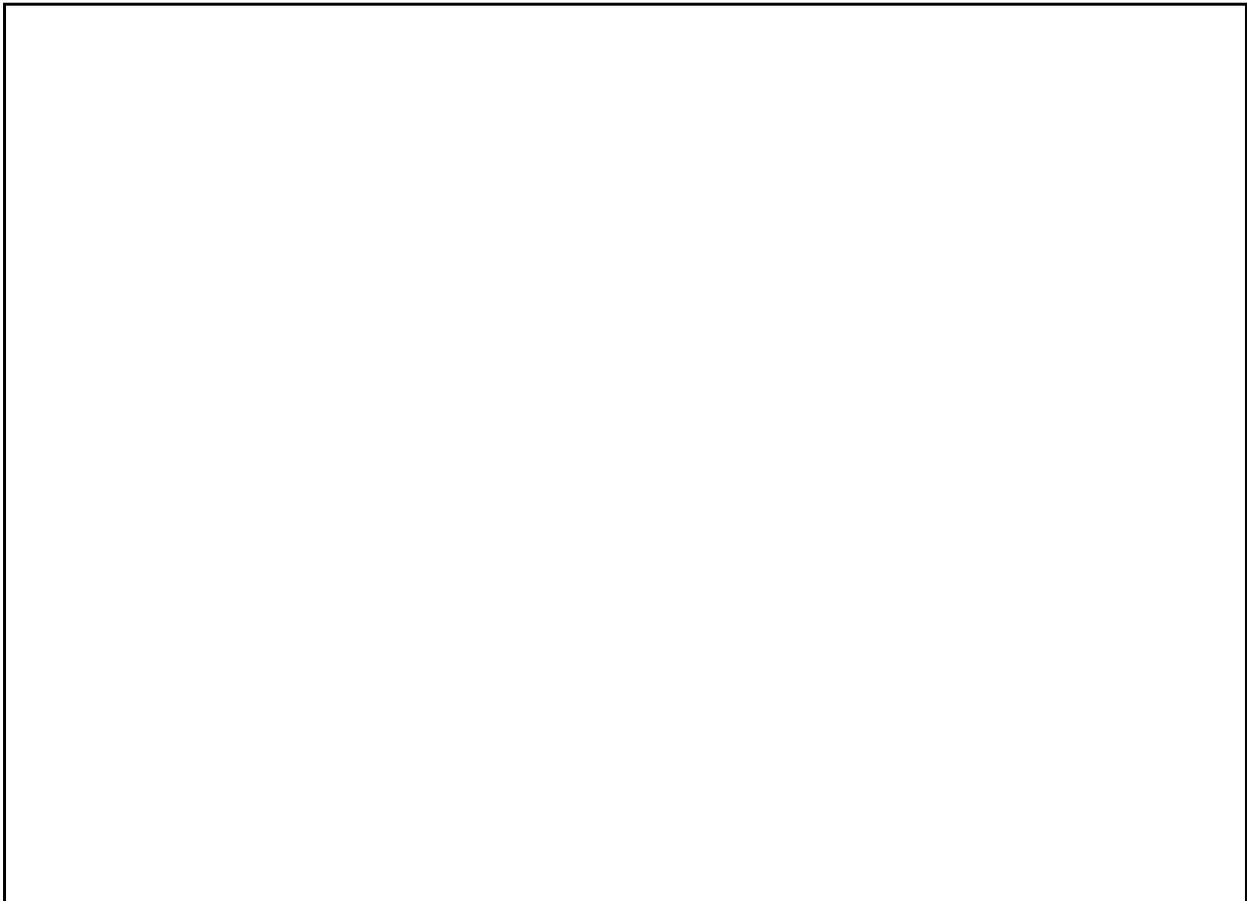
What time of year will you collect samples?

Here are some considerations:

- If you want to do routine annual testing, autumn is a good time of year for consistency.
- If you have more specific questions about the effects of management practices, weather (rain/flooding), etc., tailor your timing to allow you to best answer your questions.
- Do not sample right after you apply compost or other amendments.

Where?

- 1) In the space below, sketch out your field where you'd like to collect soil samples.
- 2) Block off areas of interest where you'd like to collect samples. Consider your goals, site history, soil textures, topography, plant health, etc.
- 3) Consider what depths are most relevant to you. Are you only interested in the rootzone, or deeper depths too?
- 4) Decide how many subsamples you can reasonably collect within each area.



It's a good idea to save soil sampling maps as records so you can return to the same general locations in the future and compare results over time.

Example - Yagi Sisters Farm

Example Soil Sampling Map

Thank you, Reyna Yagi (Yagi Sisters Farm at the Permaculture Skills Center) for permission to share.

Blocks are indicated by colored outlines. Dots (●) indicate location of soil sample collected. Soil samples from each block were combined in a bucket, mixed, and poured into a plastic Ziplock bag for 4 bags total. All areas are loam soil according to the NRCS Soil Web Survey.

Uncultivated Soil (for comparison)

Block 2

- 2nd longest block in production
- Compost, cover crops, no till

Block 1

- Longest block in production
- Compost, cover crops, no till

Block 3

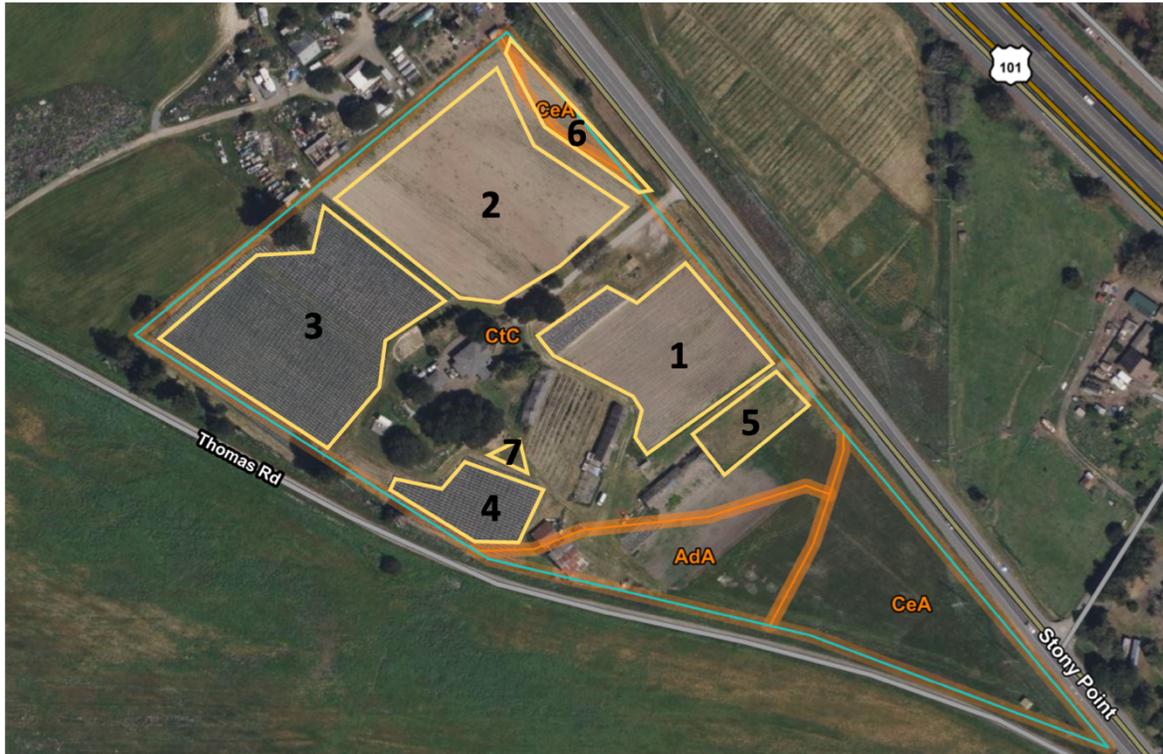
- Most recent block in production



Example – Stony Point Berry Farm

(Thank you, Koy Saichow, for permission to share.)

Stony Point Sampling Map



Sample Number

1. Productive area
2. Productive area
3. Productive area
4. Productive area
5. This area used to have ducks
6. This area has plant health issues (stunting)
7. Control – this area has never been in production

This map is from the Web Soil Survey.