



**Instructions for Collecting Samples for Mycorrhizal Root Colonization**

**For Perennial Plants**

NOTE: Please confirm our lab availability with us **BEFORE** sending us your samples. We accept samples mondays, tuesdays and wednesdays. All samples must arrive at our lab before the end of the day on wednesdays each week. Samples that arrive later than that without prior consent from our lab will not be reviewed.

General tips for accurate results:

* Wash your hands well or put on clean gloves before handling the sample material.
* Only take the samples when it is possible to ship them immediately, the same day.
* Keep the samples out of the sun, and do not let them freeze either, as both of these situations will kill many beneficial organisms. Keep samples in a cool place works best.
* These samples need to reach our lab as soon as possible, it is recommended that these samples are treated as a time sensitive product, with the fastest delivery time frame (Same day is ideal; 48 hours is acceptable)
* Tools required for sampling: un-used large zipper-type plastic baggies or clean container, a shovel, garden scissors and a permanent marker.
* As soon as the sample is taken, please write with your marker on the outside of the bag or container: which sample it is, the date and time. Do not place an identification note on the inside of the bag as this will change the results.
* Please ensure to place samples in a box where they will not be compacted along the way (i.e. cardboard box), and if it will be very hot outside, it is best to insulate the samples as well.

1. Identify the sample areas: there may be various samples to take if there are several different conditions or species of plants on your land, or any other areas of interest.   
  
EX: If part of your orchard is healthy, and another part is diseased or less performant, these would be two seperate sample areas.

EX: If you have several species of plants you want to test, they each become their own sample area.

**Do the following steps for each different sample area**

2. Take pictures of the sample area. Take note of the plants that are present, and any visible signs of disturbance on the plant surface or disturbance in plant performance.   
  
3. Pull up root system pieces of varying diameters (small hair like roots to large woody roots necessary) from 5 plants from within each sample area.

4. Place those 5 root systems in a large zip lock bag or sealable box.

5. On the bag or box, write which sample area these roots are from. Leave some air space in the bag upon sealing, you want to leave oxygen for your soil organisms. Save on shipping costs and only send the amount of material per sample listed here!

6. Send your sample(s) using a carrier that can deliver your sample(s) to our lab as soon as possible, the sooner the better for accuracy. If you are able to send in 24-48 hours, it would be ideal.

7. Ship to the following address:

33 Rue Main

North Hatley, Québec

JOB2C0

\*MAKE SURE TO REQUEST ‘NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED UPON ARRIVAL’\*

8. When the package has been sent, please send us an e-mail containing the following details:

- the tracking number

- estimated time of arrival

- labeled pictures from sample areas

- any notes and observations per sample area

Turn around time: no more than 10 working days; 24 hour express results service available upon request for an extra 25$ per sample. We are not always able to do this so please confirm with our lab before sending us your samples. If we are not able to do so at that point, we will let you know the soonest possible date to do so.

We will send you the results, interpretations by e-mail. Once you receive your e-mailed report, you can contact us if there is a need to discuss the results further or additional interpretation of the report (additional consultation fees apply).   
  
Looking forward to working with you and your soils!

DOCTERRE

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