

### **Taking a Soil Sample**

**Objective:** Take a soil sample.

**Materials and Equipment:**

Soil probe, soil auger, or spade  
Clean plastic bucket

**Procedure:**

1. Scrape away any surface mat of grass or litter.
2. Using a soil probe, soil auger, or spade, take 15 to 20 separate samples in a random zigzag pattern across a relatively uniform area. The sample should not represent more than 20 acres. Each sample should contain 6 to 7 inches of soil.
3. Place each sample in the bucket.
4. Mix the soil samples well to make a composite sample.
5. If samples are wet, the composite must be air-dried before it can be submitted for testing. One pint should be kept for analysis.