

# Soil Sampling Protocol for Lead Testing

Date:

Contact Name:

School:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:



## Overview:

You will a series of soil subsamples from your garden, mix them together, and then send a portion of that mixture for analysis. This is called composite sampling. Be sure to take samples from where plants will be grown, not walking paths, etc. Please read the entire protocol before you begin sampling!

## Protocol:

### Gather Tools:

- 🍓 Clean trowel or spade to gather the soil samples; however, do not use any bronze tools
- 🍓 Larger, clean plastic container in which to deposit each subsample (like a gallon-size, zip-type plastic bag)
- 🍓 Smaller, clean plastic bag in which to put the final mixed sample (like a sandwich-size, zip-type plastic bag)
- 🍓 Map of your garden
- 🍓 Permanent marker to indicate your sampling locations on your map and to label the final sample bag

### Collect Samples:

- 🍓 Mark on the garden map where each subsample was taken.
- 🍓 Take 5 to 10 subsamples using the clean trowel or spade. Take thin, vertical slices of soil, making sure to include the surface soil to about 4 inches deep in each subsample. Do not include mulch or rocks.
- 🍓 Deposit each subsample in the larger container. You do not need to clean the sampling tool in-between collection of each subsample.
- 🍓 When you are finished collecting the subsamples, use the trowel or spade to mix them together well. Place less than 1 cup of the mixed soil in the smaller container and label it with your school name and the date of sample collection.
- 🍓 Put the soil sample, this form, and the garden map showing sample locations in a shipping container. Label your shipping container with "Soil Sample" and send to the address shown below.

School Garden Program  
150 N 18th Avenue, Suite 140  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Please allow 4-6 weeks for results



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH SERVICES