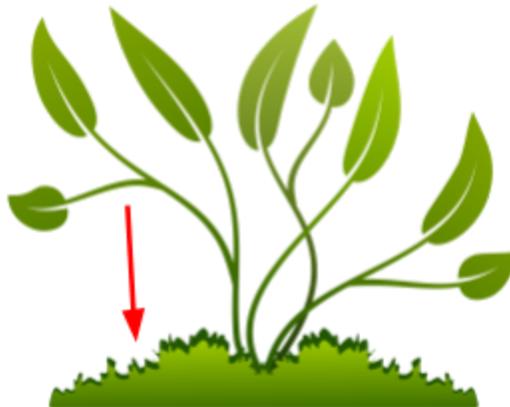


## How to Collect and Mail Soil or Compost Samples

**These instructions are for one sample. Please repeat the process for as many sites/types of plants/piles as you want to have tested.**

1. Wash hands thoroughly and obtain the following tools:
  - Soil Sampling Tube (apple corer with 1" diameter works great)
  - Large, clean bowl
  - 1 cup measuring cup
  - Plastic sandwich bag with zipper
  - Sewing pin
2. Locate the area to be tested (or a specific compost pile)
3. Identify 5-10 random areas within the testing zone from which to take your core samples
  - For soil tests: It is best to take samples from the root zone of the plants you are trying to grow; this is achieved by taking your samples from the spot halfway between the stem or crown and the drip line of the plant - marked below by the red arrow →



- For compost: Take 5 or so handfuls from different sites near the middle of your pile (6-12 inches in and halfway between the top and the ground)
4. Mix together the 5-10 samples you collected in the large, clean bowl
  5. Remove 1-2 cups of soil from the bowl and place inside the plastic sandwich bag
  6. Make sure there is plenty of air inside the bag (remove some material if you have to)
  7. Zipper the bag closed and use a pin to poke 5 small holes in the top of the bag
  8. Fill out our **order form (below)** and use your preferred mailing service to send the sample to:

**488 Charles Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55103**

### **Important Notes:**

- Testing and results delivery (via email) will take up to 10 days from the time of receipt
- Please use a mailing service that can have the sample delivered within 3-4 days of sending; this will help ensure as accurate of results as possible
- The 5-10 core samples you take should come from the same types of plants (i.e. mixing 5 cores from underneath an apple tree and 5 from a couple lettuce plants will not give you a very good idea of what's happening in either spot. 5-10 cores from around the orchard would make one sample and 5-10 cores from the annual vegetable garden would be a second sample.)

**\*\*Be sure to fill out an order form (below) and label bags if there are multiple samples!**

### **How to Collect and Mail Compost Tea or Extract Samples**

1. When your tea or extract is finished or close to it, fill a 16 oz plastic water bottle with your product, dump it out, and fill it again **half way**
2. It is important to leave air space in at least half the container; seal the bottle
3. Fill out our order form and package the bottle making sure it is sealed tightly to avoid leaks
4. Send immediately with overnight shipping (compost tea has a very short shelf-life and it must reach us as soon as possible to ensure accurate results)

**ORDER FORM BELOW:**

# Soil Testing Order Form

**Name:**

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**Email:**

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**Phone:**

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**Sample # (labeled on bag/bottle)**

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**Sample description (What are you trying to grow? What is the site like? If compost, what was your process?)**

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**\*\* Please make sure sample bags/bottles are labeled (each bag should have its own order form)**

**\*\* Mail to**

**Renaissance Soil**

**488 Charles Avenue**

**Saint Paul, MN 55103**