



SOIL SAMPLING REQUIREMENTS

Soil sampling is essential to effectively and efficiently manage soil health and vine nutrition. Soil testing establishes a baseline of Soil Organic Matter (SOM, including carbon) and other important soil health indicators, and tracks changes over time. Note that soil sampling is most effective when the soil is moist (November-April) so we recommend soil sampling in the winter/spring and sample at the same time of year each time. If it is later in the year this can be an Action Plan item.

Integrated Nutrient Management: Soil samples should also be used to identify when and if the vines need nutrients. Growers should use both soil tests and petiole testing to help target fertilizer applications, recognizing that there can be discrepancies between soil and plant indicators. While petiole samples can provide a snapshot of vine nutrient content, soil samples can help identify systemic nutrient and pH imbalances. This larger context can help target fertilizer application, reducing material use and cost.

- When you receive your Carbon Farm Plan onsite assessment the Napa Green/RCD staff can assist with soil sampling and testing of physical parameters.
- If you are in queue for a CFP onsite assessment when you need to do soil sampling please reach out to [Ben Mackie \(ben@napagreen.org\)](mailto:ben@napagreen.org), Napa Green's Vineyard Program Manager, to schedule a brief call to review your block map(s) and determine the best locations for soil sampling. Once you have identified where best to sample you will need to conduct your own soil sampling for lab tests. [RCD Soil Sampling Guidance](#), [Cornell Cooperative Extension: Soil Sampling in the Vineyard](#).

Soil Sample Requirements: Napa Green requires each vineyard to sample three blocks (6 soil samples) within their first year in the program and every following certification period (3 years). These samples will be 3 undervine and 3 in the alleys, with at least 10 subsamples from within a similar soil type.

For vineyards under 10 acres or several vineyard locations of similar soil types and management, contact Ben Mackie.

	Required	Recommended
Lab Test	Organic Matter, Macronutrients, CEC, pH (Most standard tests)	Micronutrients, texture, bulk density
On-site/ Physical test	Bulk density, aggregate stability, infiltration, compaction	

Labs:

- [A&L Labs](#) (Modesto) will test required chemical parameters
- [Ward Labs](#) (NE) has more holistic tests available such as the Haney test
- [DellaValle Lab](#)

It is important to use the same lab year over year to accurately track changes in nutrients and soil carbon. If you are already working with a lab, continue to do so.

For testing of physical parameters: You can either wait for your onsite assessment **OR** attend a Soil Sample Training (we will be organizing these trainings with the RCD) and complete these tests in-house.

Note on Compost: *It is essential to track the amount of nutrients being added to the soil relative to the amount you need. If you purchase compost any high-quality producer should provide compost nutrient data – be sure to review. If you make your own compost you should sample and send to a lab for testing.*