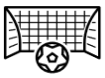
Soil Health Assessment and Plan (SHAP) Tool

SOILS AT GUELPH

Quick Guide - how to decide where to sample

1 MAKE A GOAL



Are you trying to:

"Benchmark" to identify and track trends?
Compare good and poor areas of the field?

Determine limitations and risks to soil productivity?

2 CHOOSE A FIELD to support your goal

Some considerations:

NEW or newly improved fields are great for benchmarking and tracking impact of soil health management practices over time

AVERAGE fields make the results of the assessment broadly applicable to the rest of the farm operation

POOR fields that consistently under-perform can help identify issues

GOOD fields that consistently over-perform can provide a target to aim for when evaluating "poor", "average" or "new fields with similar soils.

3 CHOOSE A LOCATION Find a relatively small and uniform area based on:

PERFORMANCE

Inconsistent yields	often from moisture fluctuations
Below average yields	may have issues of compaction, erosion or low organic matter
Average yields	broadly representative
High yields	may represent best potential of similar soils in the field; can be compared against low- or average-yielding areas

TOPOGRAPHY (slope)

Lower	water flows to / accumulates in these areas; often poorly drained unless tiled
Mid	intermediate crop productivity
Upper	generally drier areas; knolls and shoulder slopes likely eroded and at high risk tillage erosion

DATA

good yield index maps, soil property maps, or reliable management zones to can help you select an area

4 TAKE, BAG, LABEL and SHIP A SAMPLE (Steps 4 - 6 in Procedure Quick Guide) COLLECT 15-20 core samples to a 6-inch depth from within a 300 square foot in your sampling area. This is roughly a circle with a radius of 3 meters

REMOVE surface debris and extract cores. PLACE cores into a clean pail. Gently break and mix the cores. TRANSFER into standard soil sample containers. Double bag. Box. Label. Ship.