



Procedure for collecting and posting samples for Soil Food Web Analysis

The service consists of a direct microscopy assay of bacteria, fungi, protozoa and nematodes in soils or compost.

Potting Soil Sampling

Collect a minimum of three samples per pot or bed. Wear gloves. Scrape back any mulch and push aside the first 2-3cm of soil. Take a small quarter - half a handful sized sample.

Mix all samples together, then put 250-500ml of soil into one sealable plastic bag but leave half of the bag filled with air for the microbes to breathe during transport. Label the bag on the outside with your name, if sending multiple samples use a reference such as a name or number (eg Indoor Bed 1, Outside Bed 2, LS Pots 3)

Do not put any paper or other packaging inside the soil bag, as it could be microbial food.

Post using a next day service to the address below, and either call or email to notify us of the posting. Include tracking number if available.

Compost Sampling

From small compost batches take a minimum of 5 teaspoon size samples from under the surface (avoid the dry parts and the dry surface material). From a large windrow, take a minimum 20 and mix them all in a plastic bag.

Fill the bag only halfway, leaving air for the microbes to breathe. Label the bag on the outside with batch identification and date of sampling. Do not put any pieces of paper inside the bag. This is microbial food.

Post using a next day service to the address below, and either call or email to notify us of the posting. Include tracking number if available.

Ecothrive Soil Lab

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