

Guidelines for Submitting Soil Nematode Samples to the Plant Clinic

General:

- Submit soil samples in sealed bags
- Make sure each bag is numbered or marked
- Wait to collect the samples until right before you send them or keep samples cool until ready to be sent
- Send samples early in the week (Mon-Wed), preferably via one- or two-day delivery
- Include a Plant Clinic sample submission form with the sample (available on our website)
- Packages from outside Illinois should have all seams sealed with packing tape

How much soil should be submitted for each test?

For all tests: fill a gallon bag ziptop bag at least halfway with soil taken from approximately 6 inches below the soil line. Double bag when possible to reduce the risk of bags opening in transit.

Do roots need to be included?

For soybean cyst nematode sampling: roots are not needed. They may be included as part of a specialty nematode analysis. Please contact us before submitting this type of sample.

For corn vermiform nematode sampling: soil samples should be taken from the root zone, collecting roots with the soil.

When should samples be taken?

SCN egg count samples are ideally collected in fall after soybean harvest, however fields can be sampled any time the soil isn't completely saturated with water or frozen.

Corn vermiform samples are ideally taken in spring when plants are approximately 4-6 weeks old. Fall sampling for corn vermiform identification and enumeration isn't recommended for predicting the next year, but it can provide information about the current year.

How should samples be stored?

Samples should be stored in a refrigerator (40F) before shipping. SCN egg count, SCN type testing, and Hg type testing sample can be stored for up to a month before shipping. Vermiform samples should be shipped within a week of collection and should be handled gently.

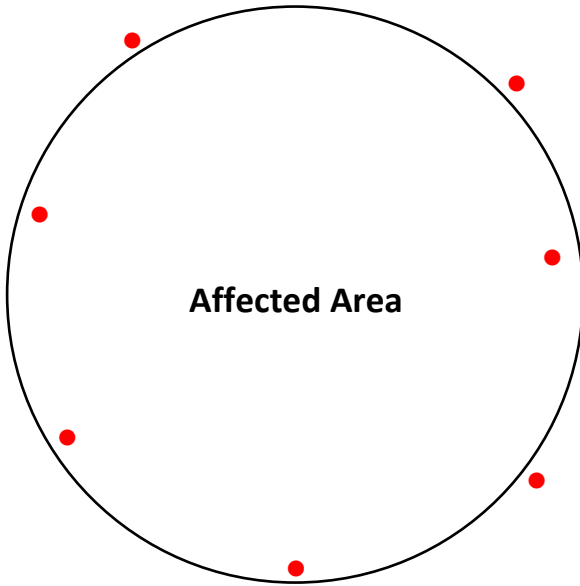
Soil samples for all tests need to be kept cool in the field and should not be left in direct sunlight or in a hot vehicle.

How should they be shipped?

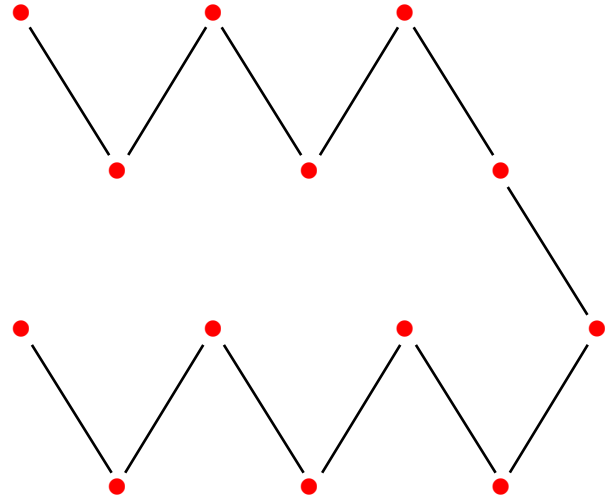
Samples for all tests need to be kept cool during shipping. Shipping overnight with an ice pack, or dropping off samples in person is recommended. Samples need to be kept cool during transit if the client is dropping them off.

See back for example sampling patterns.

Sampling Patterns



Sampling around an affected area in a field



Random sampling pattern in a field