
SD Ag Labs soil-pesticide, sampling procedure –

When sampling in the field it is important to consider how the pesticide was applied.

1. If the granular herbicide was applied in a band over the seed furrow – the levels of herbicide will be uneven - modify sampling accordingly.
2. If a soil sample is being used to detect drift, gather a very shallow soil sample of the affected areas of concern (2 cups (0.5 lb to 1 lb) ~ 0-3 inches down from the surface of the soil.
3. If tillage has taken place after application, gather a soil sample 3-6 inches from surface soil. It is important to gather a composite soil sample from the field. Going further than 6 inches down is generally not recommended. A very deep sample may dilute the concentration of pesticide in the soil.
4. Composite sampling – assuming the history of the field is the same. Hot spots – probe ~15 areas of the top 3-6 inches of soil. Mix in a clean container and then retrieve a ~ 2 cups (0.5 lb to 1 lb) of the homogenous sample.

Sending soil samples to SD Ag Labs.

After a homogenous sample has been taken, remove ~ 2 cups (0.5 lb to 1 lb) of soil, place in plastic bag and seal the bag. The soil sample should be sent overnight to SD Ag Labs. Soil samples can be sent at ambient temperatures when shipped overnight. No cooling material is needed

Soil samples should not be stored where exposed to conditions of additional moisture, heat, dust contamination or other harsh conditions following sampling. If necessary, soil samples can be stored in a freezer before sending; however, every effort should be made to send the sample as soon as possible after collection.

Soil samples should be marked individually and clearly with the following

1. Sample identification – this can be location, depth of soil sample, rate/date of application, date of sample and/or any relevant areas of concern
2. Address, email and phone of person providing sample and billing information

Please send samples to –

South Dakota Agricultural Laboratories (SD Ag Labs)
1006 32nd Avenue
Brookings, SD 57006-4728

For questions please email regina.wixon@sdaglabs.com
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