



Instructions for Soil Mineral Nitrogen sampling

Preparation:

1. If required, order insulated boxes by filling in the form below:
<https://hillcourtresearch.co.uk/order-sample-boxes-for-smn-analysis/>

Preparation – one day prior to sampling:

1. Place ice packs in freezer.
2. Book a courier collection for the day after sampling by clicking on the link below:
<https://hillcourtresearch.co.uk/courier-booking-form/>
3. **Samples must be collected Monday to Thursdays only.**

In the Field:

1. Core samples should be taken from the 0-60 cm profile using a soil auger.
2. Take at least 10 samples along a “W-pattern” across the field.
3. Avoid unusual areas, such as headlands, gateways, FYM storage sites etc.
4. Put all samples in a clean bucket and mix carefully.
5. Take a sub-sample from the bucket and put in plastic gripper bag, squeeze the air out.
6. Only half-fill the gripper bags, up to the 2nd white line.
7. **Write the sample name or sample ID on the bag.**
8. Avoid any cross-contamination from nitrogen-containing fertiliser.
9. Keep samples cool, either in a cool box with ice packs or in the packaging box.
10. Dispatch samples the day after sampling, but if this is not possible, leave samples in the refrigerator overnight (**Do not freeze**).

Packaging:

1. Place up to 6 samples in the insulated box with frozen ice packs.
2. Click on the link below for the SMN sample form
<https://hillcourtresearch.co.uk/soil-mineral-nitrogen-sample-form/>, submit and print.
3. Put the form on top of the samples and replace lid.
4. Put the box in the grey bag and leave at arranged collection point in good time for the courier.
5. If courier fails to collect samples, place the sample box in the refrigerator (not in the freezer) and contact the lab.

Checklist:

1. Arrange courier collection and put ice sachets in the freezer 1 day in advance.
2. Dispatch samples the day after sampling – must be Monday to Thursday.
3. Take a representative sample.
4. Fill in the sample form and put with samples.
5. Any problems or questions? Contact Dr Mechteld Blake-Kalff at Hill Court Farm Research on info@hillcourtresearch.co.uk or 0300 3038088