INSTRUCTIONS FOR SOIL SAMPLING

The following instructions are given by VELTIA Labs for Life in order to inform the farmers and the amateur cultivators about basic principals of soil sampling and analyses.

1. What is the main purpose of soil analysis

a. Determining the basic characteristics of the soil such as: pH, Calcium Carbonate, Texture, Conductivity and Organic Matter.

b. Defining the content of Nutrients and micronutrients of the soil (adequacy / inadequacy).

c. Knowing whether the above elements are efficient, and if their concentrations meet the requirements of the cultivations.

This way we are capable of having a more rational fertilization consulting, so that the crops will be supplied only for those nutrients that are necessary and in such quantities that overfertilization will be avoided. The benefits of this low cost practice are plenty, such as safe products for the consumers, low production cost and avoidance of soil burden with excess of fertilisers that contaminate the subsoil, surface and groundwater.

It is pointed out that soil analyses is very determining for the herbaceous crops. As far as the arboreal ones are concerned, the soil analyses should be accompanied by plant tissue analysis, that will take place at the right time and from the correct part of the shoots.

2. Soil Sampling: The correct way to do it

The soil sample that will arrive to laboratory must be as representative of the soil that exists at the field as possible. That means that it must be taken from various places. It is recommended that at least 10 subsamples should be taken per every 2.5 acres, approximately in equal volume, from the surface to 30 cm depth. These subsamples are mixed and the final consolidated sample is the one to be analyzed. Before the sampling, grass, leaves and rocks should be removed from the surface.

If trees or vines are going to be planted, same procedure should be followed for the depth of 30-60 cm and provide the lab with a separate sample.

For Greenhouses, the depth for sampling varies as follows: 0-15 cm or 0-20 cm and about 15 to 20 cm from the drippers.

Caution

a. The field must be as uniform as possible, and if any spot is differentiated should be avoided.
b. The samples should be taken from random places, taking the in a Z shape, so as to cover the majority of the field's surface.
c. If trees or vines are installed in the field, the same instructions are to be taken into consideration, plus that the sampling points should be in the middle of their shades, where irrigation and the fertilizers are applied.

3. When is the best season for Soil Sampling?

Soil sampling is better to take place in a period that will allow the producer to apply the fertilizers after receiving the analyses results. That depends on the type of each crop. Especially for herbaceous crops, as well as for the installation of trees or vines, the appropriate season is long before sowing or planting, while for arboreal ones, in autumn, so that the basic fertilization can be applied early in winter.

For any additional information you may need you can contact the Agronomists of the Commercial Department of VELTIA Labs for Life at info@veltialabs.gr and athens@veltialabs.gr.