

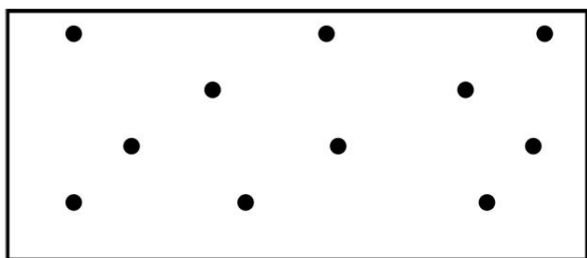
# PSU Extension - Soil Sampling Instructions

## Step 1

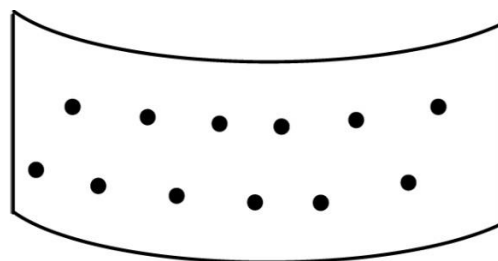
A soil test is no better than the soil sample submitted for analysis. Take samples as follows:

### **Agronomic Crops, Vegetables, Small Fruit, and Home Garden Crops**

Using a trowel, shovel, or auger, and a clean pail, obtain thin slices or borings of soil from at least 15 places in a given field. Sample to plow depth in cultivated land or to a depth of 6 inches. Sample to a depth of 3 or 4 inches in permanent pastures. Follow the diagram below to properly locate the samples. For contour strips, take 6 samples 20 feet in from the edge of the entire strip and 6 samples from the opposite side of the strip. Sample in a zig-zag pattern across the field. If the field varies in soil type, previous fertilizer or lime application, or cropping history, sample each area separately. Avoid wet areas of the field; if they are large enough, sample them separately. Discard all crop residue material. Do not contaminate soil with fertilizer or other materials.



Square, Rectangular Field or Garden



Contour Strips

## Step 2

Mix the soil taken into one composite sample in a clean plastic bucket. Do not use metal, which could react with the sample. Spread soil on newspaper in a warm room to air dry overnight. Do not heat.

## Step 3

Take 1 cup of representative sample and place in the soil mailing kit bag. Mail soil sample and appropriate information form to your chosen lab.