Soil sample guide

For soil analyses at Makali‘i Metrics

1 Choose one area

Keep different crops, soils, slopes and problem areas separate. Use one sample per similar area, up to 5 acres. Sample before adding fertilizer, lime or compost. Avoid soggy soil.

2 Collect from several points

Use a clean stainless-steel shovel or probe and a clean plastic bucket. Move aside grass, leaves and mulch; **keep the topsoil**.

Small square plots: Collect at **5 points**: the center, then about **15–20 feet north, south, east and west** of the center.
Rows or alleys: Collect at several evenly spaced points along the row, or zigzag from side to side along the alley.

Adjust spacing and add points to cover the whole area. Take equal-sized cores or thin slices from the surface to the **same depth** at every point. For trees, sample under the canopy, away from the trunk.

Depth: crop beds, fields and trees: **0–8 inches**; pasture and lawns: **0–4 inches**. Avoid paths, field edges and fertilizer piles.

3 Mix and bag

Mix all the small collections (subsamples) from that area in the bucket to make one sample. Remove rocks and large roots. Put **about 2 cups** in a new zip-top plastic bag. Seal it, then place it inside a second sealed bag. **MM will handle drying and preparation.**

4 Label every sample

Use a permanent marker. Write a unique **sample ID** (such as Kalo 1), **collection date, your name or farm, email and phone number**. Include a paper copy plus island/location, crop, sampling depth and tests wanted. Keep the paper separate from the soil.

5 Pack and send

Cushion the bags in a sturdy box. **Before any interisland shipment**, contact MM for a current permit and HDOA inspection instructions. Include a permit copy and arrange the required inspection. Do not ship under an expired permit.

Write both phrases on the outside of the box:
“Soil Samples”
“May Be Opened for Agricultural Inspection”

Mail or deliver to Makali‘i Metrics · Call before dropping off
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(808) 391-3975 · info@makaliimetrics.com

Guidance: CTAHR ADSC • Crop Nutrient Solutions • OSU • Cornell • NRCS 216/217 • HDOA • MM soil permit conditions • Nov 2026