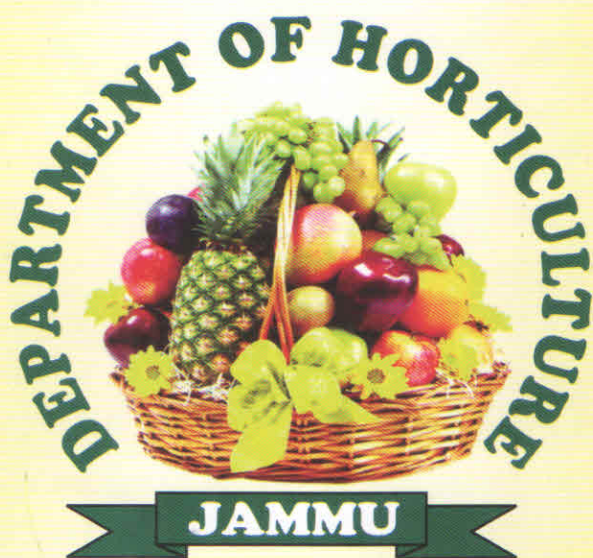


**Scientific Soil  
Sampling Procedure  
For  
Orchard Soil**



**DIRECTORATE OF HORTICULTURE,  
JAMMU  
Gole Pulli, Talab Tillo, Jammu.**

## **Right Soil Sampling For Right Results**

Soil sampling should be done prior to the application/addition of fertilizer from an apparently homogenous orchard, treating it as **One-Sampling-Unit**. Variation in appearance, slope, color, texture, crop growth, drainage or areas know to have been fertilized, manured or treated differently should be taken into account & separate sets of composite samples need to be collected from each area.

### **Soil Sample Collection, Procedure:**

Remove the litter/unwanted material from the surface without much disturbing the soil. Depending upon the size of the Sampling Unit, take the sample cores from 10-12 random spots in a zig-zag pattern in the field.

In an orchard, it is advisable to go normally up to the depth of three feet, which is further divided into three layers of one foot depth each. The sub-samples of each of the tree layers should be collected separately, followed by the layer-wise collection of the same from all the dug pits. This will give a total of only three soil samples from One-Sampling-Unit/orchard in

question (irrespective of the No. of pits).

### **Sample Size Reduction & Compositing**

Collect the sample in a bucket & mix it thoroughly. Reduce it to 0.5 kg Composite Sample as detailed below:-

Spread the sample in a disc-like shape by hand) on a clean piece of cloth polythene sheet or thick paper and discard all unwanted material, Viz, grass, stone pebbles, leaves, twigs etc.

Reduce the bulk by dividing it into four quarters, and repeat quartering i.e. discard one set of opposite quarters.

Remix well the remaining two quarters of soil and quartering till the sample size is reduced to 0.5 kg. Air-dry the sample in shade & not by direct sunlight.

Prepare four labels; 3 labels for each individual bag inside & one label to be tied to the neck of the main bag outside. The soil samples should be packed depth wise in separate cloth bages & then put inside one bag.

For nursery purpose the soil samples should be drawn from a depth of 9 inch only. Soil Sample Information Sheet (To be attached with the sample):-

Name & Parentage of the orchardist,

Full address, with Horticulture Zone, Village, Block & District.

**Kind & Age of plantation of the orchard (very important)**

No. of samples mixed together to get the representative/composite sample,

Total Sampling Area/Total Area under Orchard in question,

**Date of Sampling/Sample collection**

Irrigated (Source) or Un-irrigated,

**Aadhar Card No. and Contact No.**

Category (gen/OBC/SC/ST)

## **Precautions :-**

Do not draw sample from the extreme corners of the field, areas recently manured/fertilized or have received a dose of some soil amendments, old bunds, manure piles/pits, marshy spots, furrows, areas under tree canopy & non representative spots.

Do not take less than 0.5 kg of a composite sample.

Use ball pen for writing on the labels.

To avoid any kind of damage to the enclosed labels/tags the same should be kept in small poly bags.

Care in handling the soil samples against the contamination is extremely important. Any possibility of contact with chemicals, fertilizer, pesticides salt lime should be avoided.

For further guidance contact concerned Chief Horticulture Officer Horticulture Development Officer of the concerned area or local field staff of the Department

Chief Horticulture Officers of Jammu Division can be contacted on following Telephone Numbers :-

**Chief Horticulture Officer, Jammu**

**Ph: 0191-2554354**

**Chief Horticulture Officer, Samba**

**Ph: 01923-217651**

**Chief Horticulture Officer, Kathua**

**Ph: 01922-234679**

**Chief Horticulture Officer,**

**Udhampur**

**Ph: 01992-272551**

**Chief Horticulture Officer, Reasi**

**Ph: 0199-245659**

**Chief Horticulture Officer, Doda**

**Ph: 01996-233071**

**Chief Horticulture Officer, Kishtwar**

**Ph: 01995-259801**

**Chief Horticulture Officer, Ramban**

**01998-210944**

**Chief Horticulture Officer, Rajouri**

**01962-263404**

**Chief Horticulture Officer, Poonch**

**01965-220165**

For clarifications/suggestions please feel free to contact:

**SOIL ANALYST (JAMMU)**

Soil Analysis Laboratory (SALAL-J)

Directorate of Horticulture,

Horticulture Complex Gole Pully,

Talab Tillo, Jammu.

**Ph. : 9622869529**

**DIRECTORATE OF HORTICULTURE,  
JAMMU**

**Gole Pulli, Talab Tillo, Jammu.**