

A. Sample at the right time. The correct time to collect cranberry soil samples is when you take tissue samples--in the late summer; usually August 15 until September 15



B. Sample to the correct depth. The correct sampling depth for cranberry soil samples is six inches, excluding the duff layer.



Photo: Michael Simebrink

C. Take a representative sample. A representative sample is collected by taking samples across an entire bed, not just in one place, one corner, or along one edge. Begin at one corner and collect 10-15 samples as you proceed to the opposite corner, or walk a zig zag pattern. At each location collect one sample core.



1. Begin at the corner of the first bed. Walk into the bed 15-20 feet and collect the first sample. Insert the probe to a depth of 6 inches and remove the probe.
2. Remove the duff layer, then empty the contents of the probe into a non-metallic bucket.
3. Walk another 30–50 feet and repeat the procedure. Do this until you have collected 10 to 15 cores across a bed. 10 cores is the minimum. As beds increase beyond 5 acres collect an additional sample core per acre.

PROCEDURE

Before you begin, gather the equipment and supplies you'll need.

- Soil probe with a mark at 6 inches*
- Plastic bucket to hold samples
- Paper or heavy plastic bags
- Permanent marker

* Soil probes are available in many agriculture and environmental services catalogs.

