Soil/Sediment – PLFA Sampling Protocol

Sampling Instructions

The following sampling instructions are used for collecting soil samples for PLFA analysis. The recommended sampling container is a Whirl-Pak plastic bag or poly jar (lab preferred). Glass jars can be used but are not recommended due to the likelihood of breakage during shipment. Microbial Insights, Inc. can provide proper sampling supplies upon request.

After the proper sampling bags or jars are obtained be sure not to contaminate the inside of the sample bag with skin, dirt or any form of debris (this helps to ensure the accuracy of the data results). Wearing latex gloves (or similar) is recommended when sampling.

Note: It is important to collect as close to the required amounts as possible to ensure the ability to properly conduct the analysis requested.

To Submit Sample:

1. Once the required amount of soil (approximately 50 grams per sample) has been collected seal the container.
2. Properly affix a label with the sample name, date and analysis.
3. Be sure to fill out the Chain of Custody (COC) form correctly and accurately and ship it along with the samples. A COC form is required for QA/QC purposes.
4. Once the bags/jars have been correctly labeled, place them in the designated cooler. Be sure to fill the remaining space in the cooler with blue ice or regular ice that has been double bagged in Ziploc bags to keep the entire shipment around 4°C, especially during the summer months.
5. All paperwork to be sent with the samples should be placed within a waterproof pouch or Ziploc bag and placed on top of the samples or affixed to the inside lid of the cooler.
6. Seal the cooler lid with a strong packaging tape.

Shipping Instructions

Packaging Samples:

1. Samples should be shipped in a cooler with ice or blue ice for next day delivery. If regular ice is used, the ice should be double bagged.
2. A chain of custody form must be included with each shipment of samples. Access our chain of custody at www.microbe.com.

Shipment for Weekday Delivery:

Samples for weekday delivery should be shipped to:

OmniQU Laboratories
Attn: Sample Custodian
6 Ferrule Avenue
Montague Gardens
Cape Town, 7441
South Africa

**Please note Saturday delivery is not available.

Please send an email message including the tracking number of your package(s) to CustomerService@microbe.com to notify us your shipment is on the way.