GSP 18

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A. General Description

Use this procedure to sample soils to deterime soil fertility for grassing operations.

1. Construction Projects

NOTE: In addition to the areas specifically mentioned in this procedure, take samples at any location where the vegetation is not growing satisfactorily.

Lots are defined as follows:

- All grassed shoulders, medians, and front slopes that fall within a 1 mile (1.6 km) section of a Project

NOTE: A front slope extends from the outside edge of the shoulder to the bottom of the ditch or to the original ground line in a fill area.

- All cut slopes that fall within a 1/2mile (800 m) section of a Project
- Half the Project length if the entire Project is less than 1 mile (1.6 km) long

Take one composite sample from each lot, whether from a uniform section of the roadway or from the cutback slopes.

NOTE: Take a sample from both front slopes and the median to ensure that the individual samples from the uniform section of the roadway represent the soil types throughout the lot.

Take the individual samples with a spade, soil sampling tube, auger, or any other tool that can take a thin, vertical slice of soil.

- Take at least 6 individual samples from each location.
- Sample to a depth of 8 in (200 mm).
- Place each sample in a container with the other samples from the same lot.
- Thoroughly mix the samples and pour them into a clean container.
- Remove 1 pint (0.5 L) of soil from the container for the composite sample. The results will represent that lot.

If the soil is too wet to obtain a homogeneous mixture, submit the entire sample.

2. Maintenance Fertilization Along Existing Highways

Lots are defined as follows:

- All grassed shoulders, medians, and front slopes that fall within a 6 mile (10 km) section of the roadway

NOTE: A front slope extends from the outside edge of the shoulder to the bottom of the ditch and this same distance down a fill slope.

- All cut slopes and fill slopes (beyond the front slope as defined above) falling within a 6 mile (10 km) section of roadway
- Half the section length if the entire Project is less than 6 miles (10 km) long

Take one composite sample from each lot, whether from a uniform section of the roadway or from the cutback slopes. Make a composite sample of at least 6 individual samples taken from each mile (kilometer) of the section.

Use the same method and tools as in step A.1 to take the samples and form the composite sample.