



SHADY LANE

Expert Tree Care Inc.

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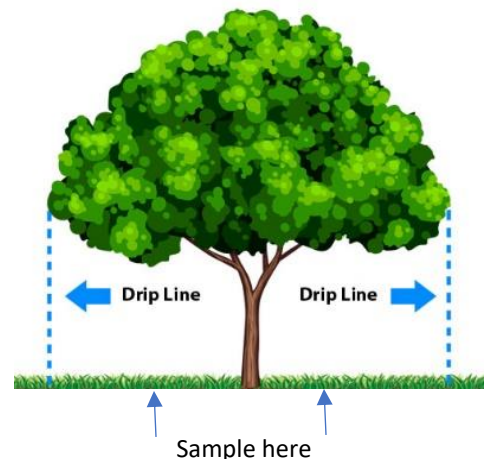
MICROBIAL ANALYSIS

Collection and Shipping Instructions

Study Design

For Soil: Consider your area of interest. Is it variable or homogenous in nature (eg. Look for wet/dry areas, different plant communities, hills/valleys). You want each “habitat” or plant species to be its own sample.

- *Single plant/homogenous area:*
 - o Are the soil types, microclimates, and plants being grown consistent? Then you can take 4 – 5 soil samples at randomly selected locations and combine them in to one bag.
 - o *For larger homogenous areas (>0.25 acre),* you may take 10 – 20 subsamples per area and combine in to one bag.
- *Diverse plants/habitats:*
 - o Are there variables that make one area different from another? See these as separate samples. Take 4 – 5 randomly selected soil samples from each area and combine them in to one bag, then do the same for the next area, for as many areas that are different and of interest. For example “dry area” and “wet area” would be two different sample bags.
 - o If you are interested in the soil biology around specific trees or shrubs of interest, *sample randomly half way between the stem and the dripline* (reach of the outermost branches).



For compost: take 1tsp from a minimum of 5 different areas from a small compost pile or 20 different areas from a large windrow and mix in a bag. Take teaspoons from various depths for a representation of the entire pile.

For a liquid like compost tea or extract: make sure liquid is thoroughly mixed and sample from 4-5 locations in the container.

If you are interested in testing the effects of a treatment or monitoring project, submit at least one “before” and two “after” soil samples. If using organic soil practices, I recommend looking at the soil for at least 3 years (since it takes time to restore the soil). Contact us if you need any help with your study design.

Materials

You will need sandwich bag (plastic), a permeant marker, and an apple corer or hand trowel (trowel recommended for compost piles). Use gloves or clean hands and clean tools when sampling.

Sampling Technique

1. Gather your materials,
2. Clear the surface of any debris including grass and leaf litter,
3. Insert the corer/trowel 10 to 12 cm (4 to 5 inches) deep, and scoop out an area that matches the dimensions of the apple corer,
4. Place this subsample in the sandwich bag and use the permeant marker to *label on the outside with a detailed sample name (eg. Garden Bed #1), your name, and the date,*
5. Repeat for a total of 4 – 5 randomly selected samples within the area of interest and combine in to the same bag,
6. Repeat this procedure for every unique plant/habitat, as determined in your study design.

Packaging and Mailing

Your sample contains living microorganisms that need to breathe, so leave the sandwich bag open a tiny bit and do not squeeze all the air out. Only fill bag about ½, for a total of 2 – 3 cups. For liquids put in a clean plastic water bottle and only fill about 1/4. Find a small box or padded envelope and sit sample(s) inside. You may want to fill any extra space with loose packaging such as crumpled paper, to ensure there isn't any tipping and spilling while in transport. Print and complete the attached *Microbial Analysis Submission Form* and include it in the package containing your samples. Seal the box, take it to your preferred courier, and opt for same or next-day shipping to:

Soils at Shady Lane
17474 Warden Avenue
Whitchurch Stouffville, Ontario
L4A 2L8

Please only mail your sample so that it arrives during Monday – Thursday. Samples are processed on Fridays; results will be emailed back to you the following week.

Please contact us ahead of time to let us know you are sending samples and how many.
soils@shadylanetreecare.com

Payment

Standard Microbial Report (you collect): \$150 per sample, includes tax. You are responsible for all costs related to packaging and shipping samples. Please pay before or upon sending us your samples.

Cheque to Shady Lane Expert Tree Care and include it in the shipping box,
Credit Card call 905-773-5906 to pay by credit card before sending samples.





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Microbiology Analysis Submission Form

Please **mail this completed form** in the same box or envelope containing your sample(s). You may also **include a cheque to Shady Lane Expert Tree Care** in the box, or pay by Credit Card over the phone. Email us at soils@shadylanetreecare.com to let us know when to expect your samples.

Please only send up to 5 samples at a time. We will do our best to get back to you within one week.

Contact Information

Client's Name (and/or Business Name): _____

Address : _____

Email Address : _____

Phone Number : _____ ext. _____

Sample Information

#	Sample Name (must correspond with what is written on the outside of the sample bag)	Date Collected	Type (soil, compost, extract or tea)	Plants to be grown using this material
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				

Additional notes may be included on the back of this page.