

## Guidelines for Sampling

### Clear Water/Fertilizer Solution

Test all new water sources and retest irrigation supplies twice per year. If you have multiple water sources, it is best to take one sample from each to determine the differences between sources, as differences can be substantial. Make certain you obtain a representative sample. To do that follow these steps:

1. Run enough fresh solution through your line or hose (several minutes) to flush out any residual solution, this will help ensure that the water sample will be a true representation of your source water. Water that has been in the lines or has been contaminated with fertilizer will not be an accurate representation of your sample.
2. **Collect at least 16 ounces (500 mL) of solution in a clean, well-rinsed water bottle.** We recommend using a clean recycled water bottle or new bottle purchased from a vendor. The bottle must be clean, unbreakable, leak-proof, and clean to avoid any contamination. If less than 16 ounces is sent, we may not be able to determine Alkalinity.
3. **CLEAR WATER:** Once your sample bottle is ready, the next step is to collect fresh water in a clean plastic container – like a 5-gallon bucket. Submerge the sample bottle into this water and cap it tightly under water, leaving no air space. This practice helps eliminate air bubbles that may influence results.
4. **FERTILIZER SOLUTION:** Make certain the stock solution is agitated well and all fertilizer is dissolved before operating the injector. Allow the injector to operate a minute or two before collecting the sample. This will allow any water or fertilizer that has been sitting in the pipes or hoses to be flushed out. Collect fertilizer solution in a clean plastic container – like a 5-gallon bucket. Submerge the sample bottle into this water and cap it tightly under water, leaving no air space. This practice helps eliminate air bubbles that may influence results.
5. Mark your container with the appropriate Sample ID (so you know what it is). This will allow faster identification and processing of samples. Please limit each code to a maximum of 20 characters. Sample I.D. code can consist of all numeric characters, all alpha characters, or a combination of both.

Examples:            EAST POND            HOUSE1H2O            20-10-20            TANK #1 WITH ACID  
                                 200ppm FERT            #2- Sept.02            LAKE WATER            WELL #3 ON 9/02

6. Fill out a Sample Submission Form with contact information and necessary notes about your samples. **Be sure to clearly write or type your email address on the form.** This information will enable the lab to email you a notification that your samples have been received; results will also be emailed once approved. If you do not have an email address, your results will be mailed or faxed when approved (please provide a fax number).
7. **New laboratory customers are required to pre-pay before samples are tested - please include a check with your first 3 sample submissions made out to JR Peters Laboratory.** If you would prefer to pay over the phone with a credit card, we will contact you once we receive your samples. For PA customers who are not tax-exempt, please include 6% sales tax- for those who are tax exempt, a proper exemption certificate must be provided. Please refer to the pricing sheet on our website or contact us at [jrplab@jrpeters.com](mailto:jrplab@jrpeters.com) for the total amount due.
8. Once the form is complete, place it, along with your sample(s) in an envelope/box and mail it to **J. R. Peters Laboratory, 6656 Grant Way, Allentown, PA 18106.** To save on shipping costs please include several samples together in a box and send to the same address noted above.
9. Use a reputable carrier for shipping samples to the lab. We recommend FedEx, UPS, or express carriers to minimize delays and damage to samples. Make sure to get tracking information on your package so you can track the transit.
10. After your 3<sup>rd</sup> submission, an invoice will be issued after lab services are completed.
11. If you have any questions, please call 1-866-522-5752, or 610-395-7104, or email [jrplab@jrpeters.com](mailto:jrplab@jrpeters.com)