**HOW TO COLLECT A SOIL SAMPLE CORRECTLY?**

1. Remember that soil sample **must be taken from homogeneous soil**, i.e., one sample must not contain soil of differing granulometric composition (for instance, sand and clay), soil with different content of organic matter, as well as soil of different soil types (for instance, peat, carbonate and podzol soils).
2. If the soil is homogeneous, the maximum permissible area for sample collection is 6 ha.
3. Collect the soil sample by walking along the **longest diagonal of the field and making 15 - 20 punches with the probe** or **digs with a spade to the depth of 20 cm**. **Place the soil collected** from the individual probe sites or digs **into a bucket and thoroughly mix** to obtain one common soil sample (**approximately 1 kg**).
4. **Insert** the soil sample **into a clean plastic or fabric bag**.
5. If several soil samples need to be sent, the customer shall number or otherwise identify them.

*Please note:*

Samples may not be collected from a freshly limed or fertilised field (sampling must be performed no earlier than one month after liming or fertilisation).

The soil sample is inappropriate, if it is contaminated with lime, mineral fertiliser or manure. If the amount of total nitrogen (N) needs to be determined, insert the bag with the sample into a cool box and transport it to the laboratory.

*Source:* [*http://www.vaad.gov.lv/*](http://www.vaad.gov.lv/)

