

WEALD MEADOWS INITIATIVE



4. SOIL SAMPLING INFORMATION

Action for valued grasslands, for now and for the future

SOIL SAMPLING

Soil sampling is recommended for both enhancement and creation

HOW TO GO ABOUT TAKING A SOIL SAMPLE

Imagine a "W" or "H" letter shape across the chosen area and take some topsoil from each of the points of the letter. In total you require approximately 0.1 - 0.3 kg of soil. The depth you need to go to depends on the previous and the future use of the field. For enhancement areas (i.e. existing and/or old pasture) you can take samples from just below the surface down to 7.5cm, whilst for creation areas (those subject to regular disturbance and/or arable and leys) the soil should be taken from just below the surface down to 15cm down.

Put the sample in a plastic bag and attach a label with contact details, field number or name of the area and the previous use of the area. If the field contains variable areas, e.g. has very dry and very wet sections, you may need to take and send more than one sample for testing.

WHAT TEST?

The standard soil test is for pH (acidity/alkalinity), and available phosphate (P) and potassium (K). This test will give an accurate idea of the nutrient status and suitability of the soil and will provide a close match for native seeding. You may also ask for a test on the total nitrogen (N) in the soil.

WHO DOES THE TEST?

Try to find a local company/agent to test your soil,

Eurofins & Environmental Lab both offer soil postal services. *Prices correct July 2010*

Eurofins - for a number of samples, with pre-payment required and a minimum order value of £ 75 + VAT. Please mark samples with the service code PUD1A (test for pH, P and K £7.83 + VAT) or if you require a total nitrogen test, the code is PUD1E (£11.78 + VAT).

Contact: Eurofins, Woodthorne, Wergs Road, Wolverhampton, WV6 8TQ. Tel: 01902 693314

<http://www.eurofins.co.uk/contacts/wolverhampton.aspx> or email: info@eurofins.co.uk

Alternatively use **Environmental Lab** - for single samples

Per sample; pH £1.50 and (available) P & K both £ 5 each = £11.50 + VAT.

Contact: The Environmental Lab Ltd, Unit A2, Windmill Rd, St. Leonards on sea, East Sussex TN38 9BY.

Tel: 01424 718618

<http://www.envirolabs.co.uk/> or email: sknight@envirolabs.co.uk

Pack your sample(s) in a labelled plastic bag within a padded bag.

THE RESULTS

A summary of the test results will be sent to you. If the soil is found to be neutral-acidic (pH 4-6.5) and has a low nutrient status (below index 2) you can then consider the enhancement or creation of a wildflower meadow with Weald Native Origin Seed (WNOS).

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The Weald Meadows Initiative is a unique partnership between the High Weald Landscape Trust (HWLT), the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Agrifactors and the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), The Nineveh Charitable Trust, Private Donors & Royal Botanic Gardens Kew