



Instructions on how to take a soil sample from a cricket square

Taking a soil sample from your cricket square occasionally is a worthwhile exercise to ascertain current nutrient values in your soils on the square. We would suggest a test every 3 years or so as to pick up any excesses or shortages of nutrients. This will ensure that you are feeding what the square needs rather than what you have done in the past,

So how? The answer is to keep it simple so we will be looking at major nutrients only, Ph, P, K, Mg. Note that soil analysis very rarely includes the amount of nitrogen available to the plant (this is for technical reasons related to soil testing). It is suggested that samples are taken from the centre of the square and on one of the ends. The laboratory testing the sample need approximately 400gms to test and report. This should be a representative sample of the square. You should take 6 or 8 at random across the square. The sample needs to a depth of 125 – 150 mm.

- Withdraw the sample and lay it down on a piece of plastic.
- After a visual assessment cut 25mm off the vegetative end + the grass , put this soil plug to one side.
- Bag the soil cores, break them up and mix well and seal the bag. Put club name on the bag. Trickle cricket loam into core hole, consolidate and seal hole with grass plug you cut off earlier.
- Repeat the exercise on one of the ends or elsewhere on the square where you want a report. Results will be available 8 to 10 days after receipt with advice sent by email.

Bring your bagged samples, clearly marked, along to the spring briefing at Horsham CC on Saturday 30th March 2024. We will view the results and offer guidance on what you need to do with other tools. Booking and payment for this must be done in advance with clubs able to do this on the SCF Grounds page with the address at the bottom of this briefing.

Look at the YouTube guidance videos on the GMA site, if no corer available improvise other tools.

<https://resources.thegma.org.uk/core-modules>

This is a special offer to members of SACG.

Brian Fletcher
County Pitch Adviser -Sussex
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