



OFNZ – Wairarapa Organics Inc

Soil Testing Information

Soil testing from at least one productive area of your property is required in your first year (CO year), and a second test is required two years later, before full certification will be granted.

When doing Soil Tests for the first time, you need to get at a minimum:

- Basic Soil Test
- Organic matter (you must request this)
- DDT and metabolites (this must be done before the end of conversion)

Do tests on at least 2, preferably 3 sample points on the property & state it is for organic certification. The amount of samples you need will depend on soil type and/or potential land use (e.g. different crops). Allow 10 working days for results to come back. You must use an accredited laboratory to ISO Quality standards.

Most certifiers state an independent person is needed for the sampling of environmental samples.

Depending on the history of your property you may need to undertake additional testing, as requested by the Certification Manager or Auditor, for

- Heavy metals
- Chemical residue testing

For advice on soil testing you can talk to:

- Esther Dijkstra, EcoAgriLogic (esther@ecoagrilogic.co.nz)
mobile 0276 307 647

You can go to the RJ Hill Website for further information, & to get a sample pack including request forms for testing:

www.hill-labs.co.nz

You should check the Bio-Gro, & OFNZ reference material for specific requirements depending on your property use.

Schedule of Charges for Soils from Hill Laboratories is (current Sept 05):

Horticulture: Basic soil plus organic matter \$54.00

Cropping: Basic soil plus Sulphate-S, Available –N, Total- N, organic matter, carbon:nitrogen ratio \$92.00

Pastoral: Basic soil plus Sulphate-S, organic matter \$65.00

Pesticide Residues:

1. DDT and metabolites \$70.00
2. Pesticide multi-residue screen (included DDT) \$180.00
3. Acidic herbicides (including 24D, 245-T, triclopyr etc) \$245.00

Heavy Metals: Arsenic, cadmium, chromium. Copper, lead, nickel, zinc, mercury) \$180.00