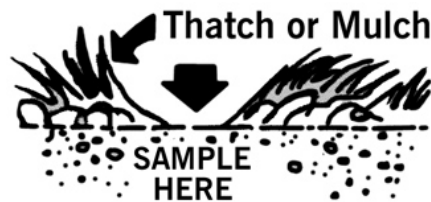
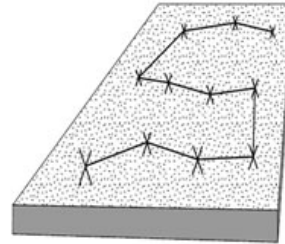


## Soil Sampling Instructions

1. Determine the area that will be represented by the sample. Poke around and look at the soil around the proposed garden area. Is the soil's appearance, texture, color and drainage similar throughout the area? **Avoid sampling very wet or recently fertilized soils** (if setting up garden on grass field, ask the custodian or school representative if they know the last time the grass was fertilized).



2. Using a clean bucket/bowl and spade/shovel, collect as least 10 to 15 subsamples to a depth of six to eight inches from random spots within the garden area (**at least 4 cups of soil**).



3. Break up any lumps or clods of soil, remove stones and debris, and thoroughly mix subsamples in the bucket. **This step is very important, because only a few grams of your sample will be used for testing!**

4. Once the sample is thoroughly mixed, scoop out **2 cups of soil** and spread on a clean sheet of paper to air-dry. Place the soil in a sunny location, protected from the elements; **do not apply heat.**

5. Place **dry sample(s)** in a plastic zip-lock bag. **Do not submit wet soil samples to the lab!**

6. Label the zip-lock bag with your sample ID (**HP+first three letters of school's name**), i.e. for *Bessie Carmichael Middle School*, your sample ID would be **HPBES**. Complete this same labeling method for all schools.

7. Complete the highlighted sections of the soil sample submission form.

- **Grower Name:** Write the school's name.
  - If multiple schools, write *the first word of each school's name* (ie. Bessie, Martin, and Galt)
- **Sample ID:** Write HP+first three letters of school's name.
  - If sending samples for multiple schools, make sure to write down the different

sample IDs on the same form.

- *Crop Code*: Write **CO**, **SW**, and either **TF** (if the garden proposal includes fruit trees) or **ST** (if the garden proposal does not include fruit trees).

8. Send your sample(s) and the completed submission form in the envelope provided.

9. The results of the soil sample will be sent directly to Healthy Planet, and we will share the information with you.

### **Soil Sampling FAQ**

Q: What if the proposed garden is on blacktop/concrete/asphalt?

A: If your proposed garden is not on soil, grass, dirt, or other organic material, you do not need to do a soil test.

Q: How long does the soil sample take to dry?

A: The drying time of the soil sample depends on a variety of factors, including the humidity of your climate, the location of the soil, and the moisture content of the soil. Use the sun, or a warm room to dry your soil, but remember, **do not apply heat directly. This could disturb the elements tested by the laboratory.**