

SOIL SAMPLING

TURNING DATA INTO BETTER TURF DECISIONS

Healthy, resilient turf starts with what is happening below the surface.

We spend a lot of time looking at what we can see, things like colour, density, disease, wear and recovery. But some of the most useful information is actually hidden in the soil.

Regular soil sampling gives us a much better understanding of what is going on underneath the turf and helps us make better decisions about what the plant and soil actually need.

BUT TAKING THE SOIL SAMPLE IS ONLY THE START.

More Than Just Numbers

A soil analysis can give us a huge amount of information, including pH, calcium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, sulphur, iron, electrical conductivity (EC) and cation exchange capacity (CEC).

The important bit is understanding what all those numbers actually mean.

Looking at one result on its own doesn't always tell you the full story. Nutrients interact with each other, different soil types behave differently and pH can have a big influence on nutrient availability.

You also have to consider things like irrigation water, rainfall, fertiliser applications and growing conditions.

This is why interpreting the results properly is just as important as taking the sample in the first place.



Looking at the Bigger Picture

At TurfCare, we don't just look at a soil report and focus on whether something is shown as high or low.

We look at how everything relates to each other and what that means for the turf.

Potassium is a good example. We know it is important for plant health, water regulation and helping the plant deal with stress. But we also need to look at potassium alongside things like sodium to understand the overall balance within the soil and whether salinity could be becoming an issue.

The same applies to pH. Rather than simply trying to hit a particular number, we need to understand what that pH means for nutrient availability, soil biology and the products being applied.

When you start looking at everything together, you get a much clearer picture of what is actually happening in the rootzone.

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TURNING THE RESULTS INTO A PLAN

This is where TurfCare really adds value.

We don't want to just hand someone a laboratory report full of numbers. We want to help explain what those numbers mean and, more importantly, what we should do with that information.

That might mean adjusting nutrition, looking at calcium or potassium levels, managing sodium, addressing pH or improving the overall soil environment.

Monitoring Changes Over Time

One soil sample gives us a useful snapshot of what is happening at that particular time.

Regular sampling gives us much more.

By testing consistently, we can start to see trends, understand whether a programme is working and pick up changes before they become obvious problems on the surface.

When we combine soil results with what we are seeing on the course, plant performance, weather, irrigation and other information, we start to build a much better overall picture.

That is when soil testing becomes a really useful management tool rather than just another set of numbers.

Test. Interpret. Understand. Act. This is what good soil testing is all about.

It might also mean doing nothing.

And that is really important.

Good soil analysis isn't about looking at a report and finding a product we can sell. It is about understanding what the soil and plant actually need and making the right decision from there.

The value isn't just in having the data.

It's understanding what it is telling us and knowing what to do with it.

Want to Understand What's Really Happening in Your Soil?

Speak to your TurfCare representative to arrange comprehensive soil sampling for your course.

We can help with the sampling process, arrange high-quality laboratory analysis, and provide a clear, easy-to-understand report interpreting the results and highlighting the key areas to focus on.

More importantly, we'll work with you to turn those results into a practical management plan based on what your soil and turf actually need.



From taking the sample to interpreting the results — TurfCare can help turn your soil data into better turf decisions. Get in touch with your local TurfCare representative to arrange your soil analysis.