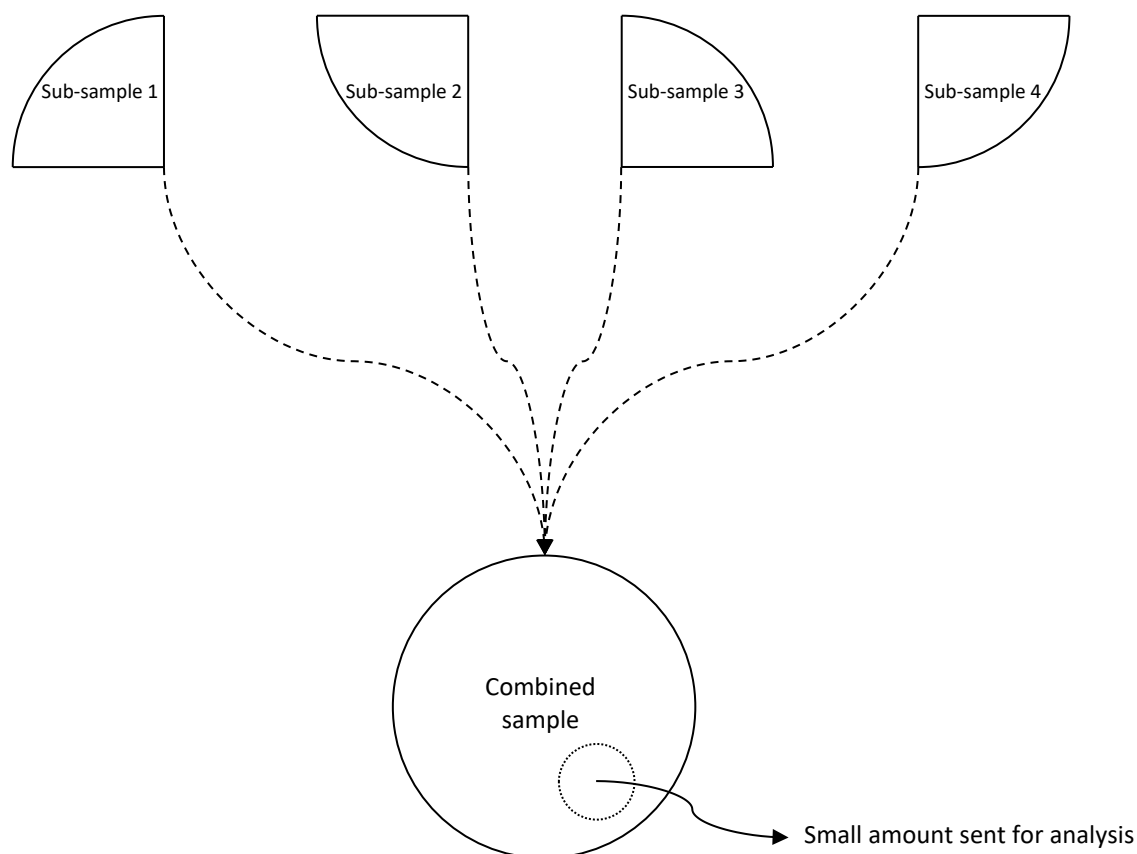


What is a Sub-Sample?

A sub-sample is one part of a combined sample. A number of sub-samples are taken and mixed together to make a combined sample. A small amount of the combined sample is then sent for analysis (**Figure 1**).

Figure 1 – Diagram showing how a number of sub-samples make up a combined sample. A small amount of the combined sample is then sent for analysis.



What Sampling Pattern Should I use?

Try to take sub-samples in either a random, zigzag or systematic diagonal pattern across the sample area (Figure 2). Avoid taking sub-samples in concentrated clusters and along bed lines.

What Type of Sampling Do I Want to Do - General or Specific?

General sampling

When you want to test across a wide area, such as an entire field, glasshouse or batch of compost, try to take sub-samples from different areas, such as different soil types (**Figure 3**). Try to distribute the number of sub-samples from each different area according to the proportion that each different area makes up of the total area. For