

# Sampling

## How many samples?

Soil: Aim to take at least 20 sub-samples (see *What is a sub-sample*, below) from each area you want to sample (for example, each paddock, glasshouse or compost pile) and mix them into one combined sample. To sample areas:

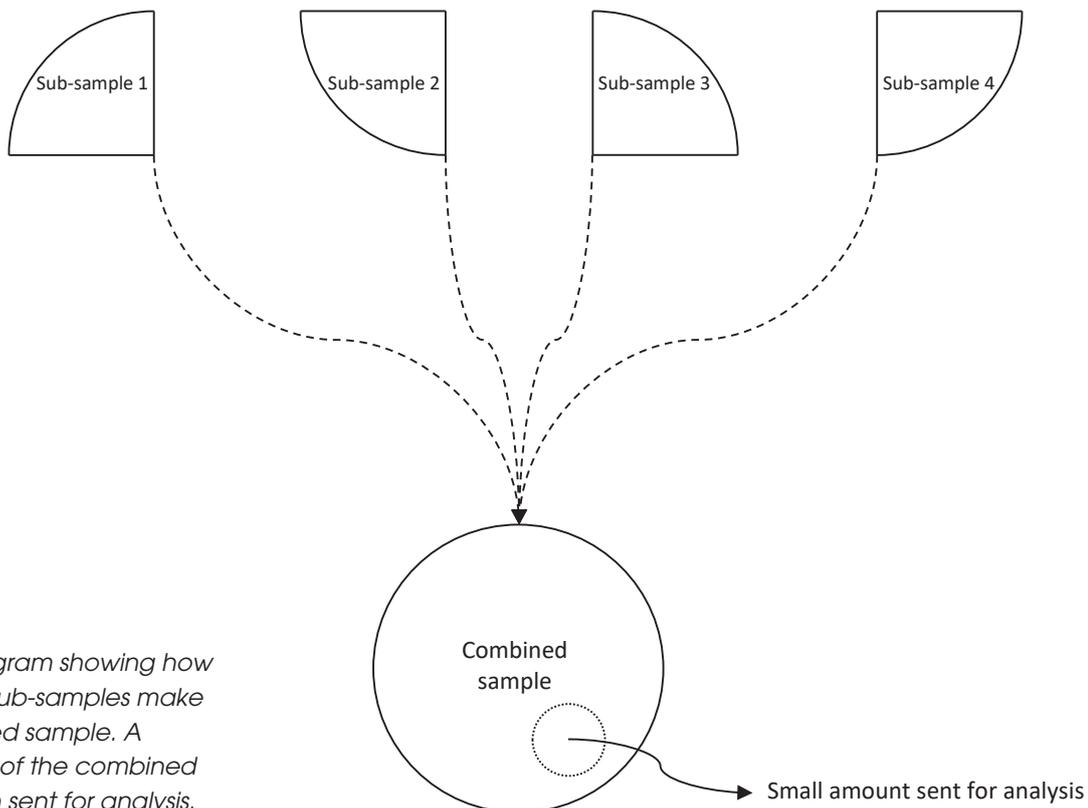
- greater than 20 ha, such as broad-acre paddocks, aim to take at least one sub-sample per ha
- less than 20 ha, such as vegetable plots and glasshouses, aim to take at least five sub-samples per hectare, with a minimum of 20 sub-samples in total.

Compost, aim to take:

- at least one sub-sample per 10 m row length or 10 m<sup>3</sup>, with a minimum of 20 sub-samples in total
- if sampling to AS 4454 and you are unfamiliar with the procedure please contact us at Microbe Labs to receive a free copy of our user-friendly guide for the AS 4454-2012 sampling procedure.

## 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.*