



DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS

125 South Clark Street \* Chicago, Illinois 60603 \* Phone: 773-553-2900 \* Fax: 773-553-4305

Patricia L. Taylor  
Chief Operating Officer

From: Lynn A Crivello  
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Subject: Sampling Raised Beds

This document provides guidance on how to sample soils in raised beds for heavy metals. The equipment you will need:

- Disposable gloves (such as the ones worn by food service workers)
- Hand rake
- A plastic or stainless steel spoon or scoop
- Cleaning detergent (liquid dish soap works well) and water (tap water or distilled water) for cleaning your sampling implements between samples
- Cleaning brush and paper towels
- Clean sample containers, zip lock bags
- Labels
- Marking pen
- Paper and pen or pencil to make a map of your sample locations

**Raised Bed Garden** samples should be collected from the first six to eight inches of the soil (the root zone). Make sure the hand rake as well as the spoon or scoop is REALLY clean before you start and after every composite sample. (It is preferred that the sampler use plastic spoons and then throw away the spoon after each use.)

Take a composite sample by removing the plant debris on the surface, breaking up the soil with the hand rake, then sampling the top 6 to 8 inches of soil. Combine at least three samples from each garden. Place the sample into a zip lock bag and then into another. The outer bag should be labeled with the following:

Name and address of the school  
Name of the person taking the sample (teacher or garden manager)  
Date

Label the sample and mark your map as to its location. If possible, refrigerate the sample(s).

Fill out the attached chain of custody form. Make sure to include the name and email address for the person who is responsible for receiving the sample analysis report.

**A check in the amount of \$30 for EACH Sample made out to STAT Analysis Corp & must be stapled to the chain of custody and the outer sample bag.** Contact: Prins Sales, Department of Operations at 773-580-0186 or by email at [ocsales@cps.edu](mailto:ocsales@cps.edu). Mr. Sales will pick up the sample(s), review the chain of custody and deliver the sample(s) to Stat Analysis. Samples without information on label, chain of custody and accompanying payment *will not* be accepted.

If you have questions or need further information please contact Lynn Crivello at 773-553-3113 or [lacrivello@cps.edu](mailto:lacrivello@cps.edu).