

Q HOW DOES THE ACCURACY COMPARE TO A SOIL LAB?

After two years of certifying 360 SOILSCAN machines through a testing lab we saw that 360 SOILSCAN nitrate measurements were in the middle of the average measurement of traditional soil labs. It is important to know that soil labs come up with a wide range of answers when measuring soil with a known nitrate level. And while there was a range of "scores" for 360 SOILSCAN machines, they were in the middle of the wide range of scores for traditional labs. So the machine is capable of generating accurate nitrate readings.

The machine's nitrate tips have a shelf life so it is important to have fresh tips. Stored tips are good, on average, for one year. Once tips are installed on the machine and in use, their life is about three months.

Q HOW MANY SAMPLES CAN I TEST WITH ONE NITRATE TIP?

The machine's nitrate tips have a shelf life so it is important to have fresh tips. Stored tips are good, on average, for one year. Once tips are installed on the machine and in use, their life is about three months.

Q DOES THE PH SENSOR GIVE A LIME RECOMMENDATION?

No.

Q CAN I TEST POTASSIUM OR PHOSPHOROUS WITH 360 SOILSCAN?

No.

Q CAN USE A KINDLE OR ANDROID TABLET?

No.

Q HOW OFTEN SHOULD I CHANGE MY NITRATE SOLUTION?

It needs to be kept fresh. Replace the solution when it gets cloudy from soil washed off the sensors.

Q DOES 360 SOILSCAN GENERATE A SHAPE FILE THAT I CAN USE IN MY APPLICATOR?

No. 360 SOILSCAN give guidance on nitrate ppm but doesn't generate an application file.

Q WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO PULL SAMPLES IN ORDER TO GET AN ACCURATE VIEW OF A FIELD'S NITRATE LEVELS?

While the ideal method would be to pull samples from each yield zone of a field, we know that is often not practical. The goal for testing is to understand the trend in mineralization and nitrate drawdown. This can be done by doing some spot checks in the same spots in a field. So you can see the trend in ppm readings.

The correct method for pulling samples depends on the N application method: banded or broadcast. For broadcast applications, pulling one or two cores from each location will give a representation of the whole area. But for banded applications, we recommend pulling cores every two inches across a 30" section to ensure that you hit the banded area and the untreated area. Blend those scores to get an average ppm reading for that area.