



# Nutrient & Soil N Testing

## Making the most of your nutrients & inputs

Portsmouth Water are offering grants to help measure your soil indices, soil mineral nitrogen and organic manures to make the most of your nutrient inputs to reduce the risk of over applications of costly and valuable nutrients.

### Soil Mineral Nitrogen (SMN) Testing

#### What is SMN?

**SMN** is the measured amount of mineral nitrogen (nitrate-N plus ammonium-N) in the soil profile. SMN is an important component of working out your Soil Nitrogen supply (SNS)

**Soil Nitrogen Supply (SNS) = SMN + estimate of total crop nitrogen content in the crop + estimate of net mineralisable nitrogen**

#### Where?

- Soil min N testing is best targeted at high/uncertain soil N supply fields, sampled in 30 cm sections to 90 cm (0–30 cm, 30–60 cm and 60–90 cm) or to rooting depth
- Areas of land known to differ in some important respects (e.g. soil type, previous cropping, and application of manures or nitrogen fertiliser) should be sampled separately.

#### When?

- Samples collected as close to planting as possible & not within two months of applying nitrogen fertiliser or organic materials.
- Current guidance is to test medium or heavy soils in autumn or spring, but for high rainfall areas or light soils to test in late winter or spring.

#### Who?

- Your agronomists or specialist advisor can provide this service
- Portsmouth Water have a list of suppliers for this service

#### How? Financial Support

- 100% grant as agreed by Portsmouth Water for SMN & specialist advice
- Grants available via FaLMA CSF framework



#### Why?

Planning nutrient applications is a vital farm management tool to ensure that applied nutrients (either in terms of bagged fertiliser or manures) match the crop demand to optimise yield and minimise environmental losses.



## Slurry & Manure Analysis

Organic manures are valuable pools of nutrients on farm and can enrich your soils with organic matter and valuable nutrients. Effective use of these manures will optimise their efficiency and reduce wasteful losses of nutrient to waterways and groundwaters.

- For reliable fertiliser planning it is important to know the nutrient content of manures that are applied to land, so that this can be taken into account when looking at fertiliser requirements.
- Undertaking analysis can enhance the efficiency with which slurries are used and can ensure optimal use of manures on-farm
- It is good practice to sample your manures and slurries for nutrient content, to avoid the variability that can occur from using published values.



### Financial Support

- 100% grant as agreed by Portsmouth Water for organic manure testing & specialist advice
- Specialist equipment via Portsmouth Water's Capital Grant Scheme
- Grants available via FaLMA CSF framework

## Other soil testing

We are open to support other testing suites which help to reduce the risk of over applications of nutrients and help you understand your soils more including soil organic matter and soil health testing. These will need to be pre-agreed before grant support is given.

## To register....

Contact Beth Fairley Catchment Management Officer

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