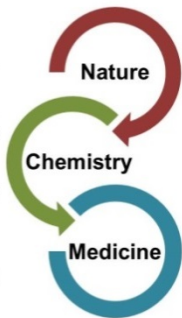


Natural Products Discovery Group



The University of Oklahoma

Citizen Science Soil Collection Program

Get Your Hands Dirty



Make a Difference

Developing a new drug is a long and challenging process. But with the help of citizen scientists such as YOU, we are on the way to discovering microorganisms that hold the secrets to creating new medicines. All of us at the University of Oklahoma, Natural Products Discovery Group thank you for getting your hands dirty to make a difference!

Your soil collection kit contains: a collection container (to safely transport the soil to our lab), a scoop (your handy shovel for collecting the sample), a box or envelope (for returning the sample by US Postal service), and a return postage sticker (you don't pay a dime for helping).

Here's what you need to do:

- 1. Select a site to collect your soil sample.** The sample site must be under the ownership of the person submitting this form. Children should make sure they have a parent's permission before preparing a sample. Make sure that the site is free of any known chemical or biological hazards. Please note that we can only accept soil samples from within the United States.
- 2. Use the scoop to collect soil.** Scrape or remove surface vegetation (e.g., grass, dead leaves, twigs, etc.) from the sample site. Avoid collecting excessively damp or wet soil. Remove large pieces of plant matter such as roots and living creatures like insects, worms, etc.
- 3. Place the sample in the collection container.** Make sure to seal the container tight! Store it in a cool dark place such as a refrigerator until you are ready to ship the sample. If the sample is moist, let it air dry in a protected area for few days before shipping.
- 4. Fill out the bottom of this form and return it along with your soil sample.** We cannot accept soil samples that are not accompanied by a signed form. If you are sending multiple samples, please fill out a new form for each submission. All submissions will become the property of the University of Oklahoma and will not be returned.
- 5. Place the pre-paid postage sticker on the front of the package and place it in the mail.**
- 6. Optional** – Would you like to be featured on our website? If so, please email a photo of yourself and/or the collection site to npdg@ou.edu. By signing below, you also verify that you own the copyright to any photo if you choose to send one.

Please provide the following information about the sample:

Date Collected: _____ City, State, and Zip Code of the Collection Site: _____

Briefly describe how and where the sample was collected (*for example, "the sample was collected in my backyard approximately 50 yards north of the intersection of Main St. and 5th Ave."*) _____

Name: _____ Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

Signature: _____

By signing this form, you agree to all the terms and conditions set forth in this document.