Obtain a soil map
Use a map to define and record the soil sampling locations.

Select representative blocks for sampling
Select areas for soil sampling that represent the soil types and nutrient management regimes of the blocks being planted.

Sample collection
Soil cores should be collected from the shoulder of the cane row, making sure no trash is included in the sample. Avoid sampling headlands and poorly drained areas.

Send samples for analysis
Send composite samples to a suitable certified laboratory for nutrient analysis.

Record keeping
Keep your soil test results and a map identifying farm blocks and sampling locations for five years.

Why do I need to do soil tests?
Soil testing is required prior to planting to calculate the optimum amount of nitrogen and phosphorus to apply to your farm. This will inform the nutrient requirements of your crop, save money and reduce the risk of surplus nutrients ending up in waterways.

What do I need to do?
The most effective time to sample is just after harvest of the last ratoon of the previous crop cycle. You can also have soil samples analysed from late crop cycle ratoons to indicate the presence of any agronomic issues to be corrected prior to establishing a fallow crop.

For soil testing services and nutrient recommendations, contact a professional fertiliser industry advisor who meets the national competency standards provided in *The method for soil sampling and analysis for sugarcane properties regulated under the Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

Before you carry out a soil test, you’ll need to refer to:

*The method for soil sampling and analysis for sugarcane properties regulated under the Environmental Protection Act 1994* which describes the tools and method in full required to sample your soils correctly.

It is available at, [www.qld.gov.au/FarminginReefCatchments](http://www.qld.gov.au/FarminginReefCatchments)