

## Sampling instructions for MALDI-ID

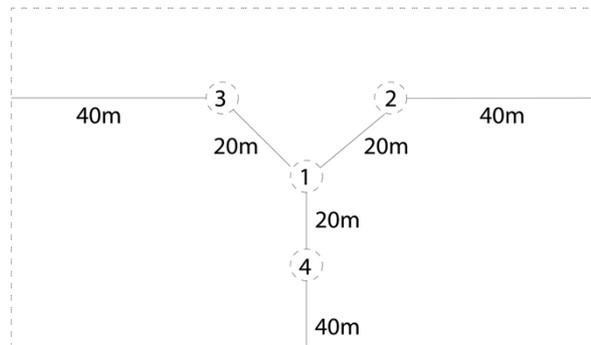
For your convenience, we provide an instruction video on YOUTUBE and on our website in the “ORDER” section.

### Before sampling please consider the following:

For each paddock you wish to analyse, you will need **ONE** sampling kit per plant species. *Note: If you have a mixed paddock, for example with sub clover and medic, then you will need to have a separate kit each for sub clover and medic (= 2 kits).*

### How to pick your sampling sites:

Our research has shown that 4 locations per paddock provide a good overview of the rhizobia situation in that paddock. To ensure the best possible result, each kit comes with 4 sample bags for the four different locations of the paddock. Make sure that each sample site is at least 40m away from any fence line and that samples are not closer than 20m from each other as illustrated in the graphic below.



### How to take samples in a few easy steps:

1. Dig out 5 - 10 plants per location in the paddock = 1 sample



2. Wash roots out in bucket with tap water



3. Sort plants according to plant species and make sure not to mix different plant species in a sampling kit. *For mixed paddocks, please consider the note from 'Before sampling' above.*
4. Cut off the greens and thoroughly dry roots with paper towel to remove excess moisture, which can damage the nodules. Make sure you have at least 10 nodules per sample location and that the desiccant pouch has not fallen out of the sample bag.
  - a. For healthy small or medium sized plants with good nodulation as seen in the image below, no more than 3 root systems should be sufficient.
  - b. For bigger plants like lupin with large nodules and woody root systems, cutting off the excess material from around the nodules is recommended to reduce risk of rotting from high moisture contents.

Repeat this for all four sample locations of your paddock to complete a kit.



5. Make sure to completely close the zip lock bags with an audible click, as leaks can have negative effects on the results.
6. Record the sample number from the sticker on the sample bag and enter the relevant details into the sample sheet included in your kit, or the electronic copy you received with the shipping confirmation email.  
*Sending the completed sample sheet electronically, allows for faster and more accurate processing of your samples.*
7. Record the GPS location for the paddock and enter the information into your sample sheet. One GPS location per paddock is generally sufficient.
8. Place sample bags 1 to 4 of each kit into the provided padded prepaid return envelope. Make sure to include the sample sheet you filled in for all samples, before sealing the envelope and posting it.

You can track your shipment by the registered mail number from your envelope