



Steve Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Agronomic Division

Dr. Colleen Hudak-Wise
Director

To: Clients who submit large numbers of agricultural soil samples in the fall/winter
From: NCDA&CS Agronomic Division Soil Testing Section
Subject: **Expedited Soil Sample Shippers for the 2015-2016 Busy Season**
Date: August 5, 2015

The NCDA&CS Agronomic Division is again offering its highest-volume customers the opportunity to opt for prioritized service during the lab's busy season (November through March). Expedited Soil Testing is totally voluntary and optional. It involves the purchase and use of specially designated sample shipping boxes that will ensure first-priority attention for laboratory processing. This option has been implemented for agricultural consultants, fertilizer dealers and large farming operations that submit hundreds of samples and have narrow windows of opportunity for applications of lime and fertilizer.

A limited number (500) of expedited shipping boxes is now available for sale. The shippers will hold 36 soil samples and can be purchased in advance. The price will be \$200 per shipper. No peak-season fee will be added to this cost. Samples sent to the Agronomic Division in the FY16 shippers will be guaranteed two-week processing, except for those received from Monday, December 14, through Friday, January 1, due to the holidays. Samples received during that period will be processed within three weeks from the date of receipt. FY16 shippers guarantee expedited service until June 30, 2016.

As a high-volume customer, you are being given first access to this opportunity. Because quantities are limited, expedited shippers may not be available for purchase after September.

Contact Ms. Jagathi Kamalakanthan by Friday, August 14, regarding the number of shippers you want to purchase: e-mail jagathi.kam@ncagr.gov; phone 919-733-2655. Providing this preliminary information does not obligate you at this time. By **Friday, August 28**, the Division will determine the maximum number of shippers an individual client will be allowed to purchase. If a client agrees to purchase shippers, payment is expected within one week after commitment; payment should be by credit card or check. Customers will be notified regarding the date that expedited shippers will be available for pick up at the Donald W. Eaddy Building in Raleigh. **Clients are encouraged to pick up their shippers by September 30.**

Thank you for considering the use of this special service. Customers last year were very satisfied.