



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 2017-2018 Busy Season**
Date: August 7, 2017

The NCDA&CS Agronomic Division is again offering customers the opportunity of prioritized service during the lab's busy season (November through March) **with some improvements.** 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.

This improvement appreciated by all of you is offered this year too. Any shipper sold this year can be used in future years. The service guarantees a **7-business day turnaround time** if the lab is contacted and notified 24-hours in advance of the quantity being delivered. Otherwise, a turnaround time of two weeks (10 business days) is guaranteed. **Exceptions to the above guarantees** are during the Christmas holidays: samples received from December 18 through December 29, 2017 will be processed at least within **three weeks of delivery.**

As a high-volume customer, you are being given first access to this opportunity. Because quantities are limited, expedited shippers may not be available later as these are sold on first come first serve basis.

Contact Ms. Jagathi Kamalakanthan by Friday, August 25, 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, September 1,** 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 29.**

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