



VitTellus Soil Health Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

1. What is the VitTellus Soil Health Test?

VitTellus is a Soil Health Test which assesses the chemical, physical and biological balance of the soil. This assessment then leads to agronomic strategies to improve soil health which drives greater nutrient utilization, higher crop yields and greater farm profitability

2. What does the word VitTellus mean?

VitTellus comes from the Latin definition of “*Vitalitas*”, which means vigor or energy and “*Tellus*”, which means earth. Combined, VitTellus represents Vigor of the Earth which symbolizes what we are aiming to assess; the vigor of our soils to be healthy and produce food for a global population.

3. What is the VitTellus Soil Health Index?

The VitTellus Soil Health index is a 0 – 60 relative scale which gives an indication of Soil Health ranging from low (0) to high (60). In soils with a low VitTellus Soil Health Index, plant and nutrient levels don't support optimum microbiological levels resulting in lower nutrient utilization efficiency and lower yields. In soils with a high VitTellus Soil Health Index, plant and nutrient levels support greater microbiological activity resulting in greater nutrient uptake efficiency and higher yields.

4. What is different about VitTellus compared to my usual soil test?

A standard soil test measures the chemical profile of a given soil. VitTellus assesses this traditional aspect, but also the physical and biological balance of the soil resulting in an indexed score and recommendations specific to this test.

5. How does VitTellus differ from other Soil Health Tests?

VitTellus provides a unique analysis and soil health index which is highly correlated to yield and the presence of a combination of disease suppressive and bio-stimulating organisms in the plant microbiome (root zone). 8 years of intensive research confirms VitTellus predicted yields as compared to actual yields with a correlation of 93%. This provides an actionable tool to change soil management practices for improved soil health, higher yields and greater farm profitability.

6. What is included in the VitTellus Soil Health Test?

The VitTellus Soil Health Test includes a standard report and a Soil Health index, Solvita CO2 results, PMN (potential mineralizable nitrogen), Reactive carbon, Standard fertility test results, A&L Crop production recommendations, On-line portal access for reports, and live customer support.

7. How much does the VitTellus Soil Health Test cost?

The VitTellus Soil Health Test is a premium package priced at \$75 per sample. The return on this investment is quickly realized with adoption of practices to improve soil health and crop yields. Research has shown high soil health can improve nutrient utilization up to 40% providing significant economic returns to producers (A & L Research Study).

8. What is the research basis of VitTellus?

The development of VitTellus is the result of an intensive 8-year research program conducted by A&L assessing over 400 factors related to soil health and yield. On-farm trial work indicates good soil health significantly improves nutrient utilization and greater crop productivity. Research has shown improved soil health can improve nutrient utilization by up to 40%. A&L continues to conduct research in this area to enhance and further validate the benefits of improved soil health.

9. When should I use the VitTellus Soil Health Test?

A VitTellus Soil Health Test can be used annually to measure soil health and the impact of management practices over time. Samples should generally be taken at the same time of year and from a similar location.

10. How do I conduct a VitTellus Soil Health Test?

The process is simple; take soil samples from areas of the field known to be high in productivity and areas known to be low in productivity. These various samples are analysed with the VitTellus test and the results will identify the differences in key soil health parameters which can then be acted on. Example; differences in soil pH or K:Mg ratio can be addressed with a tailored fertility package.

11. How does VitTellus support sustainable agriculture and industry protocols such as 4R?

The VitTellus test is an ideal tool to support sustainable agriculture as it provides indicators to improve the biological health of the soil and optimize the use of crop fertility programs. VitTellus

has the ability to address the environmental, economic and societal elements of sustainable agriculture.

12. How do I order the A & L VitTellus Soil Health Test?

Ask your retailer, agronomist or contact A & L directly through our website