Protocol for the use of Standard Soils at the UW Soil Testing Laboratories

1. For all routine farm soil, lawn and garden and research trays, use position #1 as the location for the standard soil. The corresponding box in the tray should be inverted and left empty for all trays to assure this location is available for analyzing the standard soil.

2. Use the same soil each time for each of the assays. You can use a different soil for B vs. P/K but within each test keep using the same soil.

3. If variation exceeds 0.1 pH units for pH or Sikora buffer pH, stop and evaluate the situation. For other tests use an acceptable variation of +/- 10% of the long term mean for that parameter.

4. Save the data for a minimum of three years and have it readily available for a QA/QC audit.

4. If the supply of a standard soil is starting to be exhausted, obtain a new one and start testing it along with the original one to establish a baseline value for the new standard.