Importation of soils is controlled by the United States Department of Agriculture, and as such it is subject to federal regulations.


If you are shipping samples from a foreign or regulated domestic location, you must request a request soil permit packet from CAIS. This packet contains a copy of CAIS’s permit, shipping labels, and instructions on how to package and ship your samples.

It is important that that you contact CAIS prior to shipping foreign or regulated domestic soils. Samples that are packaged or shipped incorrectly could be stopped and destroyed by the USDA inspectors at the port of entry. Also, if samples are shipped directly to CAIS and do not go through a USDA inspection, we are instructed by the conditions of our permit to destroy the samples upon arrival.

All soil or clay must be placed in sturdy leak-proof containers and clearly labeled "Contents: Soil Samples". Due to limited storage space and the difficulty of disposing of large quantities of regulated soils, we do not accept foreign or domestic USDA-regulated soil in quantities greater than 25 grams per sample, or in quantities surpassing 1.5 kilograms (~ 3 pounds) per investigator per project.

When making your request for the Permit Packet, by phone (706-542-1395) or email (cais@uga.edu), the information we need you to provide is:

- Name of the person receiving the packet
- Company name
- Shipping address
- Billing address, if different from the shipping address
- Phone number
- Fax number
- Email address