

## When is the best time to use the microBIOMETER®?

It depends on your goals and what you're looking for. As microbial life has natural, seasonal fluctuations, it's important to understand and establish a baseline of your soil. We recommend testing a few times each season, before and after harvest, and after hard frosts hits to better understand these seasonal changes.

- Cover Crops: Test before planting and again 3-4 weeks later.
- Soil Amendments: Test the soil before application, then again at 2 weeks and 6 weeks post application.
- Fertilizer Input Levels: Test before application and again a week later. If your MB went down, you've likely added too much fertilizer.
- **Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Inoculation:** Test the soil before adding AMF. Then test the soil clumped around the roots (the rhizosphere) 3-4 weeks after inoculation to see if AMF colonized. Test the non-rhizosphere soil as well and compare F:B ratios.
- New Planting or Transplanting: Test the soil before planting. If MB is less than 300 ug C/gram of soil, you likely need to take sufficient remediation steps to insure a healthy transplant.

Keep in mind that soil is complex. There are countless factors that can affect whether your soil inputs and amendments become adapted into your soil. Be sure to consider all factors when making management decisions.