Soil fungi/bacteria sampling plan

From Lauber *et al*. 2009. Pyrosequencing-Based Assessment of Soil pH as a Predictor of Soil Bacterial Community Structure at the Continental Scale. Applied and Environmental Microbiology 75(15): 5111-5120.

**Sample collection, DNA extraction, and soil characterization**. […] Briefly, all soils were collected near the height of the plant growing season from nonagricultural soils that were minimally disturbed and unsaturated for the majority of the year. At each site, soil from the top 5 cm of mineral soil was collected from 5 to 10 randomly selected locations within an area of ≈100 m2. Soil samples were composited, stored, and shipped at 4°C for 1 to 3 days before the samples were sieved through 4-mm mesh to thoroughly homogenize and remove roots and plant detritus from the samples. Soils were archived at −80°C until DNA extraction.

I think we can safely harvest samples into tubes without buffer, store them at 20C until we can get them to the garden, and then ship them to GWU on dry ice.