

Mr. Elsdale
Sent just now
4 samples with worth follow
if available *RHK*

2900a Louisiana ave.,
St. Louis, Mo.,
Nov. 28, 1937.

Dear Dr. Kehoe;

you may rest assured that I shall be glad to help you in every way that I possibly can. The soil that you ask for will be shipped to you just as soon as I can get down to doing it. This, I hope, will only be a matter of a few days.

There are, however, one or two things that I should mention to you with regard to the soil that I am sending to you. I shall not be able to send you samples of all the soils in my collection, since the quantity which I have is, in some instances, so small that I am unable to spare enough for analytical purposes. I would not be able to send you the amount requested. However, I have sufficient quantities of some soils to enable me to send you the amount which you desire. As a matter of fact, I spent quite a bit of time last evening figuring out just how much you do want, since my knowledge of the metric system is limited to the fact that I know that it exists. However, I figured that two ounces would about fill the Bill. If you want more than this, please let me know, and I shall be glad to furnish it in all cases where it is possible.

Please remember that the soil I am sending you is not necessarily typical of the country from which it is taken. In some cases this may be true; in others, not. However, a little research will probably enable you to find out. If you do get such information, I would appreciate it very much if you would forward it to me.

The possibility of contamination of the soil by atmospheric dust is, in my opinion, slight, since I have been very careful in keeping these soils from any such pollution.

The method of sterilization used by the Department of Agriculture was, in all cases, the application of dry heat. The packages were not even opened.

Since I do not know at the present moment the exact number of soil samples that I shall be able to send, I can not give you

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any idea of the number of containers to send me. However, I know that the minimum will be ten, and so, if you would send me that number of containers, I could return them to you, with the soil, and let you know if any more are necessary.

I expect to import some more soil in the near future and will be glad to send you samples of it when I do so.

I hope that I am able, in doing this, to render you satisfactory service. I am glad that my soil collection can be put to some good use.

Sincerely,

John V. O'Reilly
John V. O'Reilly.