

How To Take A Plant Tissue Sample

Follow these basic guidelines to ensure the lab receives a good plant sample. Pull portion of plant needed using the chart below and place leaves in a Plant Sample bag or paper bag. Do not use a plastic bag. Wash contaminated samples gently with water if needed. When possible, collect a soil sample from the same location the plant sample was taken. Fill out the information sheet as completely as possible, including crop, stage of growth, and sample number. Be sure the sample numbers on the information sheet correspond with the numbers on the sample bags. If sampling instructions are not given for the crop you wish to sample, a good rule of thumb is to sample the youngest fully mature leaves.

	When To Sample	Plant Part To Sample	# of Plants to Sample
FIELD CROPS:			
Alfalfa	At 1/10 bloom stage or before	Mature leaf blades about 1/3 of the way down the plant	45-55
Cereal Grains (including rice)	Seedling stage	All the above ground portion	50-75
	or Prior to heading	1 st 4 leaf blades about 1/3 of the way down the plant	30-40
Clover	Prior to bloom	Mature leaf blades about 1/3 of the way down the plant	50-60
	Seedling stage	All of the above ground portion	25-30
Corn	or Prior to tasselling	The fully developed leaf below the whorl	15-20
	or from tasselling to silking	The leaf at the ear node of the one above or below it	15-20
Cotton	Prior to or at first bloom or when first squares appear	Youngest fully mature leaves or main stem	30-35
Hay, forage, or Pasture grasses	Before seed head emergence or at the stage for best quality	The 4 upper most leaf blades	50-60
Milo-Sorghum	Before or at heading	2 nd leaf from top of plant	20-25
Peanuts	Before or at bloom stage	All of the above ground portion	20-30
Soybeans	Seedling stage	All of the above ground portion	20-30
	or Prior to or during initial flowering	Fully developed leaves at the top of the plant	20-30
VEGETABLE CROPS			
Beans and Peas	Prior to or during initial flowering	Fully developed leaves at the top of plant	25-30
Cabbage, etc. (head crops)	Before heading	1 st mature leaves from center of whorl	10-20
Celery	Mid-growth cycle	Petiole of youngest mature leaf	20-30
Cucumbers and Melons	Before fruit set	Mature leaves near the base of the main stem	20-25
Leaf Crops	Mid-growth	Youngest mature leaf	30-50
Potato	Before or during early bloom	3 rd to 6 th leaf from growing tip	20-30
Root Crops (carrots, beets, onions, etc.)	Before root or bulb enlargement	Center mature leaves	25-35
Sweet com	Before tasselling or at tasselling	The entire fully mature leaf below the whorl	
	Or at tasselling	The entire	
Tomato	Before or during early bloom stage	3 rd or 4 th leaf from growing tip	20-25
Tomato (Greenhouse)	Before or during fruit set	Young plants: leaves from 2 nd and 3 rd clusters Older plants: leaves from the 4 th to 6 th clusters	20-25
ORNAMENTALS & FLOWERS			
Camations	Un-pinned plants	4 th or 5 th leaf pair from base of plant	20-30
Chrysanthemums	Before or during early flowering	Top leaves on flowering stem	20-30
Ornamental Trees & Shrubs	Current years growth	Fully mature leaves	30-75
Roses	During flowering	Upper leaves on the flowering stem	25-30
Poinsettias	Before or during early flowering	Most recently mature fully expanded leaf	15-20
Turf	During growing season	Leaf Blades; avoid soil contamination	2 cups

For A Complete List Of Crops, Please Visit *Plant Analysis* located under the *Services Tab*.

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