

# Guidelines for Sampling

## Tissue

1. Take tissue samples at specified intervals and at the same time of day and period after fertilization, and in a manner that produces the least possible damage to the tissue. All leaves in a sample should be taken from the same cultivar (strain).
2. Leaf age is a significant factor determining the nutrient content of leaf tissue. For routine sampling, sample the "**most recently matured**" leaves. Generally, acceptable nutrient range guidelines are based on this stage of growth. Young leaf tissue will not produce the same nutritional balance as most recently matured tissue.
3. For diagnostic purposes, comparative sampling of affected and unaffected leaf tissue is recommended. Be sure that leaf tissue samples are of the same age from affected and unaffected plants. If all plants are affected, consider separate samplings of older leaves as well as younger leaves. This works best when a pattern of younger or older leaves is affected throughout the crop. This will give you an idea of the distribution of nutrients throughout the plant.
4. Send at least 1.5 ounces (fresh weight) of tissue per sample. That is, approximately 20-25 leaves or a very large fistful. Be sure to rinse leaves before sampling for plants that have had foliar chemical sprays applied. Do not take samples when tissue is wet. Tissue should be clean and dry as samples contaminated with media cannot be analyzed.
5. Send tissue in a paper bag and make certain the tissue is dry – **do not use plastic** bags or containers for tissue samples. If necessary, you may blot leaf tissue dry after sampling before placing it in the sampling bag. Moist samples can become moldy during transit and will be unusable for analysis. Do not send entire plants unless specifically requested by the JR Peters Tech Team.
6. Mark your container with the appropriate Sample ID (so you know what it is). This will allow faster identification and processing of samples. Please limit each code to a maximum of 20 characters. Sample I.D. code can consist of all numeric characters, all alpha characters, or a combination of both.  
Examples:
 

#365-02	MUM LEAVES 001	HOUSE 3 GERANIUMS	GER 047A
#4-Sept.02	GOOD POINTS	BAD POINTS	
7. Fill out a sample submission form with contact information and necessary notes about your sample(s). Be sure to include your email address on the form. This information will also enable the lab to email you a notification that your samples have been received, results will also be emailed once approved. If you do not have an email address, your results will be mailed or faxed when approved (please provide a fax number).
8. Once form is complete, place it, along with your sample(s) in an envelope/box and mail **to J. R. Peters Laboratory, 6656 Grant Way, Allentown, PA 18106**. To save on shipping costs, include several samples together in a box and send to the same address noted above.
9. Use a reputable carrier for shipping samples to the lab. We recommend FedEx, UPS or express carriers to minimize delays and damage to samples. Make sure to get tracking information on your package so you can track the transit. If RUSH sample processing is needed it is important to contact the lab in advance of sample shipment.
10. New laboratory customers, we ask that you include a check with your first 3 sample submissions made out to **JR Peters Laboratory**. (For Pennsylvania customers who are not tax-exempt, please include 6% sales tax- for those who are tax exempt, a proper exemption certificate must be provided). You can also pay for your initial samples in advance with a credit card over the phone by calling 866-522-5752 ext. 10.
11. For returning customers, an invoice will be issued after lab services are completed.
12. If you have any questions, please call 1-866-522-5752, or 610-395-7104, or email [jrplab@jrpeters.com](mailto:jrplab@jrpeters.com)