

LEAF SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS



CENTRAL ANALYTICAL LABORATORY
PLANT ANALYSIS
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WHAT TO SAMPLE

Leaf analysis with fertilizer recommendations is available for tree fruits (apples, pears, cherries, peaches, apricots, prunes and plums; filberts and walnuts), small fruits (blackberries, raspberries, blueberries, cranberries, boysenberries, and grapes), and holly. Analysis can be made of other crops, but standardized fertilizer recommendations are not available at this time.

WHEN TO SAMPLE

For tree fruits, collect leaf samples during August in all areas except Umatilla County, where July 15 to August 15 is the best sampling period.

For cranberries, collect samples in mid-August to mid-September, prior to harvest. For other small fruits, collect samples in the period of July 21 through August 10.

Grape standards at Oregon State University have been established for leaf petioles sampled between July 21-August 10. Other regions sample at either bloom or veraison. Bloom or veraison samples can be analyzed, but OSU standards do not apply.

Holly should be sampled in November or December.

SELECTION OF PLANTS

A single sample should not represent an area of more than five acres. Take the sample from five plants of average vigor, spaced evenly throughout the area. Include one variety or strain in a sample and preferably only one rootstock type. Mark or map plants sampled for future resampling.

In diagnosing a trouble spot, take one sample from affected plants and a separate sample from non-affected plants.

SELECTION OF LEAVES

Unless leaves are unusually small, 50 leaves are enough for a sample. Collect 10 leaves per plant from shoots randomly selected from all sides of the plant and combine them into one sample. Select only one leaf from a shoot. Collect leaves that are free of disease or other damage if possible. Pick leaves so that the petiole (stem) remains on the leaf. Only clean leaves should be selected. Leaves contaminated with soil or sprays can give an inaccurate analysis.

For most crops, pick leaves from the middle of the current season's terminal shoots of about average vigor.

For walnuts, take a mid-leaflet from the compound leaf in the middle of a fruiting terminal (see diagram on back of this sheet).

For all caneberries, take the youngest full expanded leaf (usually within 18 inches from the tip) on the current season's shoots.

Grape samples are taken from the middle of the current season's terminal shoots. Submit petiole (leaf stem) only.

A cranberry sample is obtained by clipping the current season's growth on uprights. Twenty tips each from 9 or 10 locations representative of the bed are needed (180-200 tips per bed).

PREPARATION OF SAMPLE

The leaves should be delivered to the laboratory soon after sampling or allowed to air-dry so they will not mold or otherwise spoil. **Do not wash cranberry samples.**

SHIPMENT OF SAMPLE

Fill out the Plant Analysis Information Sheet and place it along with the **dried** leaves into the paper bag (**do not use plastic bags**) furnished with the sampling kit. The information will aid in making the fertilizer recommendation and will also be used in research programs at Oregon State University.

If more than one sample is submitted, please code all samples by a number. Example: If you submit 10 samples to the laboratory, mark these samples from 1 to 10 including complete directions to the sampling area. Retain your code so that you can identify the proper sampling area when the reports are received.

FEE

The fee for analysis and fertilizer recommendations is \$40.00 per sample. Please send one check for the full amount, payable to "Dept. of Crop and Soil Science" and enclose your samples. Do not send check and sample separately. Chemical analysis cannot be made until payment is received.

Either package and mail sample(s) yourself, or arrange with your county agent or grower association for delivery to the lab. Address is: Central Analytical Laboratory, Dept. of Crop and Soil Science, Oregon State University, 3079 ALS, Corvallis, OR 97331-7306.

ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES

Samples will be analyzed for nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, copper, boron, zinc, and manganese.

Reports will be prepared by computer and reviewed for accuracy. Reports will be mailed to you and to your County Extension Office.

QUESTIONS

If there are questions regarding sampling procedures or the diagnostic service, please contact your county agent or the Central Analytical Laboratory.



Select one mid-shoot leaf or mid-leaflet (walnut) as shown above.