

Nitrogen Testing Program Schedule

Nitrogen (N) is a key factor in any crop management plan – and efficient, refined application of this fertilizer can lead to increased profits, and reduce losses into the environment and ground water. One of the best ways to dial-in N applications is through testing the soil. Use the Nitrogen Testing Program Schedule below to assess soil and plant N and optimally apply N through the growing season.

Analysis	Sampling timeframe	Management use	Soil type recommendations
Pre-plant Nitrogen Test (PPNT)	Corn: After frost, prior to planting or pre-plant N application Midwest: April	Can help improve the efficiency of N fertilizer applications to corn. Measures N in the crop root that is carried over from previous season.	Medium/fine texture, well-drained Not recommended on sandy or coarse soils
Pre-sidedress Nitrogen Test (PSNT)	Corn: When plants are 6-12 in. tall or about 4-6 weeks after planting Midwest: Mid-late June	Can help improve the efficiency of N fertilizer applications to corn. Measures the amount of N released from previous crops, manure, organic matter, and previous year carry-over.	Medium/fine or coarse texture, poorly drained Not recommended on sandy soils
Plant Tissue Plus	Corn: When plants are 6-12 in. tall or about 4-6 weeks after planting Midwest: June	The best way to evaluate the nutrient levels of plants in order to correct or prevent nutrient deficiencies.	Any texture or drainage class
In-field Nitrate Test	Corn: When plants are 6-12 in. tall or about 4-6 weeks after planting Midwest: June	Provides field-side, zone-specific nitrate analysis results in as little as 5 minutes. Can help improve the efficiency of N fertilizer applications to corn.	Any texture or drainage class
Late-season Corn Stalk Nitrate Test	Corn: 1-3 weeks after black layer Midwest: September	Determines if the growing season N Management practices were sufficient or if future improvements could be made for greater profitability or reduction of excess environmental N.	Any texture or drainage class

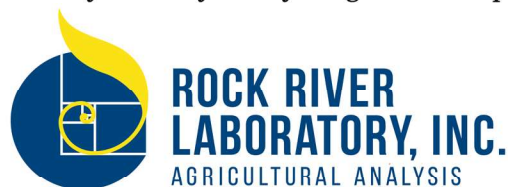
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Contact Rock River Laboratory to work with an agronomy expert and learn more about how to incorporate nitrogen analysis into you or your growers' crop management program.



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