

PLANT TISSUE SAMPLING GUIDANCE

The following guidance applies to all types of plant tissue samples:

Avoid These Plants

- Dead
- Injured (by insects, equipment, or chemicals)
- Moisture and drought stressed

Sample Normal and Abnormal Areas

- When using plant tissue analysis as a diagnostic tool, always sample healthy and unhealthy plants for comparison.
- Adding a soil sample from each area can also aid in identifying causes of nutrient deficiency
- Don't forget a shovel: digging roots is a helpful in-field diagnostic tool

Sample Preparation

- Best to collect early in the week
- Ship as soon as possible, or drop at a Convenience Route dropbox
- Utilize the provided plant tissue sample bags to maintain sample integrity
 - Brown paper or other breathable bags help prevent deterioration of the sample
 - NEVER USE PLASTIC BAGS! Samples could rot in transit to the lab.
- Knock any loose dirt off plants, but do not wash plants prior to placing in sample bag

ALFALFA

Stage of growth: Bud to first flower

What to sample: Top 6 inches

How many to sample: 35 plants



SOYBEANS

Stage of growth: Vegetative

What to sample: Newest fully developed leaf

How many to sample: 25 plants



CORN

Stage of growth: V1 - V5

What to sample: Whole plant, above-ground portion only

How many to sample: 20 plants



Stage of growth: Vegetative

What to sample: First fully mature leaf - must have exposed collar!

How many to sample: 15 plants



Stage of growth: Reproductive

What to sample: Ear leaf

How many to sample: 15 plants

