Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory

Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory; 6 Sherman Place, Unit 5102, Storrs, CT 06269-5102
Phone: 860-486-4274 • Fax: 860-486-4562 • Location: Inion Cottage, Depot Campus, Mansfield

Sampling Fruit Plants for Plant Analysis

Tree Fruit

Apples, **apricots**, and **cherries** can all be sampled during the summer. Provide fifty mature leaves from new growth for testing.

Pears and **plums** are also sampled during the summer. The former requires fifty midshoot leaves from new growth while the latter requires twenty five whole leaves from midshoot growth.

Peaches and **nectarines** require twenty-five midshoot leaves collected during the spring fruit set.

Small Fruit

Strawberries can be tested using twenty-five mature leaves from new growth collected at flowering.

Blueberries should be sampled during the summer. Seventy-five mature leaves from new growth should be collected.

Raspberries can be tested two to three weeks after harvest using fifty mature leaves collected from the midsection of the primocanes.

Table and **wine grapes** are to be sampled when in bloom. Fifty petioles from leaves opposite of the basal flower clusters should be collected. **Wine grapes** can also be sampled in the early summer using fifteen whole leaves opposite from bunch clusters.

Currants should be sampled when the fruit is ripening. Fifty mature leaves from new growth are needed for testing.

General Sampling Instructions

1) Sample an average of 10 - 30 plants of one variety from a representative area.
2) If there is a plant growth problem, submit a sample from the problem area along with a sample where normal growth is occurring.
3) Collect appropriate number of leaves/petioles/clippings per sample. Call us at (860) 486-4274 or go to our website for specific collection information for various plant species not listed on this sheet.
4) If plant samples have soil, fertilizer, dust or spray residues, they will need to be cleaned. Try brushing with a soft brush. For persistent residues, wash leaves/petioles with a dilute (phosphate-free) dishwashing detergent in tap or distilled (preferred) water quickly (less than one minute). Rinse well, shake excess water from, and air dry at room temperature on paper towels or other clean, absorbent surface. Do not let plant samples sit in water as nutrients will leach out.
5) Place dried leaves in clean paper bags and submit to UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory along with questionnaire and payment. Fresh, rinsed samples may be brought directly to lab or shipped overnight to:

University of Connecticut
Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory
6 Sherman Place, U5102
Storrs, CT 06269-5102

Additional Information

Midshoot leaves from new growth are leaves in the middle of a newly developed branch.

Whole leaves from midshoot growth are leaves from any part of a branch that has grown from the middle of another branch.

A **primocane** is a new cane on a raspberry or other bramble plant. They do not fruit until their second year during which they are called a floricane.

The **petiole** is the "stem" of a leaf. It connects the leaf to the branch.

A **bunch cluster** is a fruiting body on a grape vine.