

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 Ornamentals for Plant Analysis

Christmas Trees

Balsam fir, concolor fir, white fir, Scots pine, and **white spruce** can all be tested during the summer using the needles from twenty-five 2"-3" terminal clippings.

Greenhouse Crops

Mums can be sampled from just prior to flower bud set through harvest. Thirty samples of the fourth leaf from the tip would be needed.

Poinsettias require twenty-five mature leaves from new growth, which can be collected from prior to bract coloration through flowering.

Easter lilies should be tested using twenty-five mature leaves from new growth prior to bud expansion.

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

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