

How to Collect and Submit a PLANT Sample

Oregon State University- Soil Health Lab

Recommendation: Search the [OSU Extension catalog](#) to learn more about the specific crop you'd like to sample AND Seek advisement from your [local OSU county extension professional](#).

1. **Identify your reason for sampling and determine the areas you will sample.**
 - a. The OSU Extension catalog has publications on many crops and can give sampling advisement for the questions you may be asking.
 - b. Consider your history of crop yield and health to decide which areas to sample.
2. **Determine when you will collect the sample and which part of the crop to sample.**
 - a. When you collect is dependent on each individual crop's growth cycle.
 - b. Consider which part of the plant should be sampled (i.e. leaf, flower, petiole).
3. **Collect the samples.**
 - a. Gather your tools (shears, clean bucket).
 - b. Collect **subsamples from many individual plants** to combine into one composite sample that is representative of your crop of interest.
4. **Prepare sample for transport to the lab.**
 - a. Put your composite sample into a plastic or paper bag for analysis.
 - b. Label the bag with your name, date, plant ID, and/or field ID.
 - c. Please send us no more than ~1 cup of sample.
 - d. If you are interested in moisture (%) of the plant, keep cool and in a sealed bag to reduce moisture loss by evaporation. Otherwise, samples can be left to air-dry.
 - e. **Please keep in mind we do not wash samples prior to analysis unless requested.**
5. **Fill out a [Plant Submission Form](#).**
6. **Ship samples AND submission form to the address below.** If you'd like to drop-off samples to the lab, contact us via email first. For samples that must be kept cool, ship with insulating material or an icepack.

OSU Soil Health Lab

3017 Ag Life Sciences Bldg

Corvallis, OR 97331

7. **Contact the lab via email if you'd like to be notified when samples arrive.**
Email: Soil.lab@oregonstate.edu

NOTE:

- **Be consistent with your sampling plan from year to year if you plan to compare data.**
- **Do NOT** mail or drop off a check with your samples. When the report is complete, you will receive an invoice and the completed report **via email** with information about how to pay.
- You **MUST** report the county and state from which samples are collected. **If samples are from out- of-state, you MUST contact the lab BEFORE shipping.** We are an APHIS permit holder for domestic and international samples.