Plant Tissue Sampling for Blueberry

For predictive (routine) testing, sample plants after fruiting when leaves are fully mature.

**How:** Collect 1–2 leaves per bush from 30 –40 bushes; 30 -50 leaves total or about two fistfulls. Collect mature leaves from mid-portion of current season's growth.

**Specify Growth Stage:** Fruiting (F) or Mature (M)—1st 2 weeks after harvest

**Plant part:** Collect Most Recent Mature Leaves (MRML) from mid-shoot area. MRMLs are neither young and shiny nor old and dull. About the 4-5th leaf down from the terminal bud.

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**Tips**

- Fill out the Plant Sample Information Form as completely as possible. The more information you provide, the more precise your recommendations will be.
- Specify the *growth stage* and whether your sample is Predictive (routine) or Diagnostic (troubleshooting). For diagnostic testing, submit a plant sample and a corresponding soil sample from both a “good” (healthy) and “bad” (unhealthy) area.
- Use paper bags for storing and mailing. Don’t put your leaves in a plastic bag. They will rot.

**Standard analysis includes:** nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sulfur, iron, manganese, zinc, copper, and boron.

**Fees:** $5 per sample for N.C. growers ($25 for out-of-state; $12 for N.C. researchers).

**Turnaround time:** 2 days from receipt.

**Send samples to:** NCDA&CS Agronomic Services—Plant Lab

  *Mailing address:*
  1040 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699

  *Physical address:*
  4300 Reedy Creek Rd, Raleigh NC 27607

  *Phone:* (919) 733-2655

For more detailed information, go to the Plant Tissue Analysis page at [www.ncagr.gov/agronomi](http://www.ncagr.gov/agronomi) or contact the regional agronomist for your area.