Plant Tissue Sampling for Corn

Tissue analysis is used to optimize corn fertility or troubleshoot nutritional problems.

Seedlings (< 4”) and Early (< 12”): Cut the Whole plant 1” above soil. ~ 15-20 plants.

Early (> 12”; ~ V10): Collect the first Most Recent Mature Leaf (MRML) below the whorl with a collar. ~ 10-15 plants.

Tasseling (VT) through Silking (R1): Leaf opposite and below the uppermost developing ear (Earleaf). Foliar testing after Silking is not recommended.

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.


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 or contact the regional agronomist for your area.