Plant Tissue Sampling for Pine Trees

When to sample: Collect routine samples in May-June.

Growth stage: Specify whether the trees are early (E) or mature (M). Seedlings to saplings are considered early. Pines are mature when they begin producing cones which is ~10-30 years.

Tree Position: Middle (M) of the tree.

Quantity: Collect a large handful of needles (~100).

Plant part: Collect needles with sheaths from the lateral areas of the bough. This is the Most Recent Mature Leaf (MRML). Do not collect needles from the tufted ends.

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.