Plant Tissue Sampling for Turf Managers

Predictive samples are used for routine monitoring of nutritional status. Submit one representative sample.

Diagnostic samples are used to troubleshoot observed problems with turf health. Submit a sample from both a “good” (healthy) and “bad” (unhealthy) area.

How: Collect all clippings from area of interest, mix and remove one-pint subsample. Allow clippings to air dry. Clippings can be collected directly from the mower basket. If no basket is used, either collect recently mown clippings from multiple areas of the turf or cut with scissors the upper 1/3 of grass tissue from multiple areas. Remove any non-turf debris.

Growth Stage: Early (E) or Mature (M)

Plant Part: Top (T) one third of grass

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 or nematode 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.