



## Seed Sampling Basics

NCDA&CS-Plant Industry Division

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### Helpful Hints:

- The careful and deliberate sampling of seed is an important first step in determining the true characteristics of any seed lot.
- The seed sample you take should be fully representative of the entire seed lot. As such, when taking any sample, one should check for any signs of non-uniformity with the seed.
- It is important to fully review the container or package and label information for the lot number, kind, variety, and any seed treatment.
- For sampling small quantities of seed, it is often adequate to include 200-400 seed for testing. This number provides an appropriate amount to provide true statistically-valid results. Should the number of seed be limited, as many seed as possible should be sent without impacting your garden plans.
- For sampling seed in bulk, free-flowing seed in bags, mini-bulk containers or bulk, a trier must be utilized for effective sampling. The trier enables one to effectively sample all portion of a container or quantity being sampled.
  
- Hand sampling may be utilized when standard equipment is not available, especially for bulk products. If hand-sampling is utilized, the individual must reach to the bottom of the container in a swooping or scooping manner.
- Composite samples may be placed in fully sealed paper bags in a mailing envelope and submitted to the NC Seed Laboratory, NCDA&CS-Plant Industry Division, 1060 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1060. Overnight deliveries may be submitted to NC Seed Laboratory, 216 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27603.
- Helpful information includes any of the following, if known: Name and address of labeler, kind and variety, brand name, lot number, container weight and sample date.
- It is critical the name, address and email of the individual furnishing the information be provided.

**Note:** Presently there are no costs for purity and germination tests conducted for North Carolina Residents.