Plant Tissue Sampling for Cotton

When to sample: Seedling (S) Four weeks following emergence of 2-3 true leaves.

Early (E): Four weeks following seedling stage, includes pinhead square formation.

Bloom (B): Begins when plants have at least 5 open blooms per 25 row feet.

Fruit (F): Begins 5th week after beginning of bloom

Part to collect: Collect 25-30 most recent mature leaves and petioles. Separate petioles in the field and include with sample.

Tips

Fill out the Plant Sample Information form as completely as possible.

Specify the growth stage and whether your sample is Predictive (routine) or Diagnostic (troubleshooting). For diagnostic testing submit a sample from both a “good” (healthy) and “bad” (unhealthy) area.

Tips: 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, aluminum and boron on the leaf and nitrate on the petiole.

Fees: $7 per sample for N.C. growers ($27 for out-of-state; $14 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