Plant Tissue Sampling for Tomato

**How:** Collect 1-2 leaves per plant to make a representative sample. Collect 10 to 15 leaves total. Collect mature leaves from mid-portion of current season’s growth.

**Specify Growth Stage:** Seedling (S), Early (E), Bloom (B), Fruiting (F), and Mature (M).

**Plant Part:** Sample the most recently mature leaves (MRMLs), generally the 4th to 5th compound leaf back from the growing point.

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**Tips**

- Fill out the plant sample information form as completely as possible.
- Specify whether the crop is grown in the **greenhouse** or **field** as this will determine your recommendations.
- Specify the **growth stage** and whether your sample is **Predictive** (routine) or **Diagnostic** (troubleshooting). For diagnostic testing, submit a plant 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, aluminum and boron.

**Fees:** $5 per sample for N.C. growers ($25 for out-of-state; $12 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