SOILLESS MEDIA SAMPLE INFORMATION

NCDA&CS Agronomic Division Plant/Waste/Solution/Media Section
Mailing Address: 1040 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1040
Physical Address (UPS/FedEx): 4300 Reedy Creek Road, Raleigh NC 27607
Phone: (919) 733-2655      Web Address: www.ncagr.gov/agronomi

SAMPLE INFORMATION  PAYMENT  GROWER INFORMATION (please print)  CONSULTANT/OTHER RECIPIENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FARM ID</th>
<th>FEE TOTAL _________</th>
<th>AMT PAID _________</th>
<th>LAST NAME</th>
<th>FIRST NAME</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>SAMPLED BY</td>
<td>METHOD OF PAYMENT</td>
<td>ADDRESS</td>
<td>CITY</td>
<td>STATE</td>
<td>ZIP</td>
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<td>GROWER □</td>
<td>CASH □</td>
<td>CHECK □ (payable to NCDA&amp;CS)</td>
<td>( ) MONEY ORDER</td>
<td>( ) ESCROW (provide account name below)</td>
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<td>SAMPLE DATE</td>
<td>PHONE</td>
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<td>E-MAIL ADDRESS</td>
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<td>COUNTY (where collected)</td>
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<td>NUMBER OF SAMPLES</td>
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For each sample, please collect 1–2 quarts of media in a 1-gallon plastic bag.

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<tr>
<th>LAB NUMBER</th>
<th>SAMPLE ID</th>
<th>MEDIA CODE 1</th>
<th>MEDIA TYPE 2</th>
<th>FERT TYPE 3</th>
<th>SAMPLE TYPE 4</th>
<th>CROP (scientific or common name)</th>
<th>PLANTING DATE 5</th>
<th>CORRESPONDING SAMPLE ID</th>
<th>COMMENTS (fertilizer details, crop appearance)</th>
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Key & Codes: **Recommendations can be more specific when this information is provided.**

1 Media Production System Code 2 Media Type 3 Fertilizer Type 4 Sample Type

GHF = GH Floriculture  PMB = Peat Moss Based  LIQ = Liquid or Fertilization  PRE = Preplant
GHV = GH Vegetable  PBB = Pine Bark Based  CRF = Controlled Release  POST = Postplant
NUR = Nursery Crop  PER = Perlite Based  NON = None  
TOB = Tobacco Transplants  OTH = Other  OTH = Other
OTH = Other  UNK = Unknown  UNK = Unknown

Additional Comments or Information

Thank you for using agronomic services to manage nutrients and safeguard environmental quality. — Steve Troxler, Commissioner of Agriculture
Rationale for Sampling

Soilless media can be tested preplant (in bulk) or postplant (in container) for predictive or diagnostic purposes. Predictive (routine) results are useful in monitoring effectiveness of fertilizer programs. Diagnostic (problem) results can help pinpoint suspected nutrient-related causes.

Predictive sampling is a good way to monitor EC, pH and nutrient-level trends and balances. To obtain meaningful test results that are comparable over time, be consistent in sampling procedure and timing. Always collect samples at the same time interval after irrigation or fertigation.

Diagnostic sampling involves the collection of multiple samples for comparison. When trying to diagnose a suspected nutrient problem, collect separate media samples from “good” and “bad” areas. Collect and submit other types of comparative samples—plant tissue, source water and/or nutrient solution—from “good” and “bad” areas as you see fit.

Sampling Procedures — refer also to Agronomic Sampling Folder No. 9 available at www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/pdf/ samsme.pdf

A representative sample consists of a mixture of 5 to 10 subsamples. Subsamples from dry, bulk substrates should be collected from the center of individual bags or from random areas in a stock pile. In postplant situations, each subsample should

► be collected from a separate container,
► represent the same set of conditions (i.e., plant species, stresses, appearance and management practices),
► NOT be taken from containers that are located on the edges of a bench or block, and
► NOT be taken from the top or bottom ½ to 1 inch of container media.

To collect subsamples from a small pot,

► remove the root mass, and
► pinch or grab a wedge of substrate from the center of the root mass.

To collect subsamples from a large pot,

► brush aside the top one inch of media, and
► use a probe or trowel to collect substrate from the center of the pot.

Once subsamples are combined and mixed, the total sample volume should be at least one quart, but two quarts are preferable.

Samples from dry, bulk loads of substrate should be moistened before being sent to the lab. Moisture will activate lime and provide a more accurate pH reading. Place sample in a sturdy plastic bag, add ⅓ to ½ cup water and knead it in; or place sample in a pot, water until drainage stops and bag as usual.

Sample Submission

Place each sample in a well-sealed, plastic bag. Using a permanent marker, label it clearly with the sample ID as well as your name and address. Fill out the Soilless Media Sample Information form (available online at www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/pdffiles/ad8.pdf). Package sample(s), completed sample information form and appropriate fee together. Submit to the Agronomic Division’s Plant/Waste/Solution/Media Section.