

Guidelines for Sampling

Media

1. Always collect samples in a consistent manner – at the same time period during the day, and at the same time interval after fertilization, to provide the best comparison between sampling dates. Generally, we recommend collecting media samples 24 – 48 hours after fertilization; however, you should correlate this interval to the in-house test method you are using. Always wait at least one hour following fertilization before collecting samples to allow time for the substrate solution to reach equilibrium.
2. **Please send approximately 2 cups of media (or one full quart sized plastic bag).**
3. For containerized crops, we recommend a composite sample from 8 or more containers, consisting of core samples or pie-shaped wedges collected from the root zone. For raised or ground beds, take a composite sample from 8 or more points in the area to be tested, consisting of core samples through the root zone. Specifics based on irrigation/fertilization method follow.
4. Water Soluble Fertilizers (WSF)
 - a. Top watering - scrape away ½-1" of media surface before sampling.
 - b. Drip irrigation - sample from under drip emitters.
 - c. Subirrigation - scrape away ½-1" of media surface. In order to assess surface salt accumulation you may wish to test this area in addition to a sample from the root zone.
5. Controlled Release Fertilizers (CRF)
 - a. Top-dressed - remove CRF and top ½-1" of media surface before sampling.
 - b. Dibbled – avoid disrupting the fertilizer when sampling.
 - c. Incorporated – ship medium samples in rigid containers to prevent damage to coated fertilizer prills. Attempting to remove prills may result in crushed prills, which may inflate test results.
6. Unused media – first fill pot(s) with media, water in thoroughly, and wait 1 to 3 days before sampling.
7. Mark your container with the appropriate Sample ID (so you know what it is). This will allow faster identification and processing of samples. Please limit each code to a maximum of 20 characters. Sample I.D. code can consist of all numeric characters, all alpha characters, or a combination of both.

Examples: #365-02 MUM SOIL 001 HOUSE 3 GERANIUMS NEW MIX 047A
 #4-Sept.02 GOOD POINTS MEDIA BAD POINTS MEDIA

8. Fill out a Sample Submission Form with contact information and necessary notes about your sample(s). **Be sure to clearly write or type your email address on the form.** This information will enable the lab to email you a notification that your samples have been received; results will also be emailed once approved. If you do not have an email address, your results will be mailed or faxed when approved (please provide a fax number).
9. Once the form is complete, place it, along with your sample(s) in an envelope/box and mail to **J. R. Peters Laboratory, 6656 Grant Way, Allentown, PA 18106**. To save on shipping costs, include several samples together in a box and send to the same address noted above.
10. Use a reputable carrier for shipping samples to the lab. We recommend FedEx, UPS or express carriers to minimize delays and damage to samples. Make sure to get tracking information on your package so you can track the transit.
11. **New laboratory customers are required to pre-pay before samples are tested - please include a check with your first 3 sample submissions made out to JR Peters Laboratory.** If you would prefer to pay over the phone with a credit card, we will contact you once we receive your samples. For PA customers who are not tax-exempt, please include 6% sales tax- for those who are tax exempt, a proper exemption certificate must be provided. Please refer to the pricing sheet on our website or contact us at jrplab@jrpeters.com for the total amount due.
12. After your 3rd submission, an invoice will be issued after lab services are completed.
13. If you have any questions, please call 1-866-522-5752, or 610-395-7104, or email jrplab@jrpeters.com