



Manual plant sap sampling

Asparagus



Contact details

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Sampling and sending samples

Location

Take the following steps into account when collecting leaf samples:

- Avoid the outer rows of the field or greenhouse. Also avoid the first and last 10 meters of a row.
- Sample leaves with an average leaf quality.
- Sample abnormal plants with e.g. deficiency symptoms separately. If a deficiency might be present in the young or old leaves of the total crop, sample these leaves separately as a young or old leaf sample.
- Take into account the sunny and shady side of the plant. Always consistently sample the same side.

Time of sampling

It is strongly recommended to take the samples before 9:00 AM. The plant will then have enough leaf-tension with proper moisture conditions.

We can also analyze the root, we advise to begin with sampling in December until February.

We advise to sample the leaf (foliage) after emergence.

Plant parts

For a young leaf sample, collect the **youngest, fully developed needles from the tops**. Also collect (separately) the **oldest, but still vital needles from the tops** (see pictures 1 and 2). You can collect needles quicker by stripping them off from the top of shoot.

Collect needles young needles from the areas in the red circles on picture 1. Collect old needles from the tops of the older shoots for the old leaf sample, don't sample too close to the main stem, see picture 2.

It is not allowed to send in samples that have a fungal, bacterial or virus infection. The leaves must also be free from insects.





Needles / Young plant parts



Pic 2.: Sampling old needles

Needles / Old plant parts

Pic 1.: Asparagus shoots

Sample size

For an average sample about 150 grams of needles are needed (often a filled sample bag). Contact us when you have questions about sample size.





Packing the leaf samples

When leaves/needles are wet on the outside due to dew or rain, they can be dried with a tissue. Leaves/needles have to be dry from the outside to be analyzed because water will have an influence on the results. Moreover, the leaves/needles will spoil faster if there is water in the sample bag.

Please pack the young and old leaf samples separately, these will be two different samples. To assure fluent processing please put them in a plastic zip-lock bag carefully. Make sure all air is out, so any leaf evaporation is excluded. See pictures



Barcode labels

Fill in the labels correctly and place them on the bags (see pictures below). We prefer pre-printed labels because it saves us a lot of administration time. It has also advantages for you:

- When using Bemesting-Online program you need the same location names and crop names to make comparisons (graphs), pre-printed labels make this a lot easier;
- If our employees must read what is on the label, the chance of reading errors is very high, this is not the case with preprinted labels;
- You no longer must write the location and crop name on the label on the spot.

Let us know if you need help with this.





Sending the samples

The sample zip-lock bags with barcode can be sent in an envelope (make sure it fits in a mailbox (max 3,5 cm. high)). In case you want to send more than one sample, please send them together in 1 box, so they will arrive together. Then put sufficient postage on the envelope or package. Always check the weight. Please take care that envelopes are sealed well. You can put an extra tape over the closure to avoid opening during transportation.

We recommend to sample crops on Friday and send the same day by DHL or FedEx, then NovaCropControl is receiving your samples in the beginning of the next week. Please put €1.00 as the shipment value on the sample package.

Do you ship samples from outside Europe? To avoid clearance delay at the customs please consult our shipment guide for sending samples to Europe. You can find this guide at our website: <https://www.novacropcontrol.nl/en/sampling>

Please send samples to the address below:

NovaCropControl
Gasthuisstraat 20
5061 PB Oisterwijk
The Netherlands

