



## Sampling guide

# Alfalfa



### Contact information

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## Sampling of leaves

### Location

Take the following steps into consideration when collecting leaf samples:

- Avoid the outer rows of the field and the first and last 10 meters of a row.
- Sample leaves of average leaf quality. Sample abnormal plants (with deficiency symptoms) separately. In case 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.
- Keep in mind 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.

Start sampling after the first emergence before the rows are closed. Repeat sampling every 3 to 4 weeks.

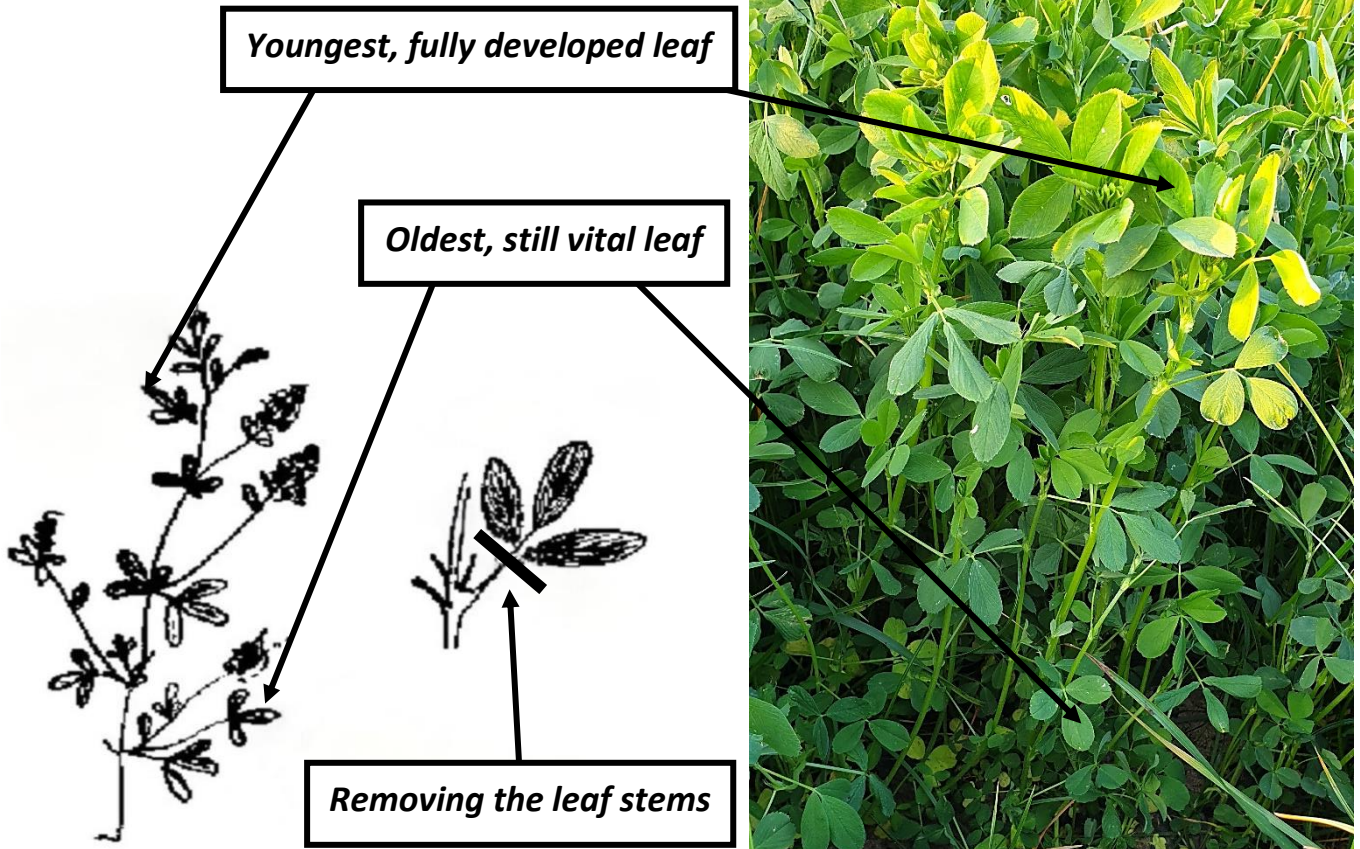
### Excess moisture

When leaves are wet on the outside due to dew or rain, they can be dried with a tissue. Leaves have to be dry from the outside to be analysed because excess moisture will dilute the results.

### Plant parts

For a young leaf sample, pick the **youngest, fully developed leaves**. Also separately pick the **oldest, but still vital leaves**. Remove the petioles as they will influence the analysis. The image on the next page shows where to remove the stems from the leaves.





**Sample size**

In general 50 leaves should be enough per sample, 100 grams. This amount depends on type, size and shape of leaves. If in doubt about the sample size, please feel free to contact us.





### Packing the leaf samples

Please pack the young and old leaf samples separately, these will be two different samples. To assure fluent processing please stack the leaves, fold the leaves if needed, and carefully put them in a plastic zip-lock bag. To exclude leaf evaporation make sure all air is pushed out of the bags. See pictures.



### Applying labels

Fill in the barcode labels and place them on the bags. Pre-printed labels are preferred, this saves time and reduces the chance of errors. Please let us know if you need help with this.





## Sampling of water

Make sure the bottle is filled completely. Remaining air in the bottle may influence the analysis.



Right



Wrong



Wrong

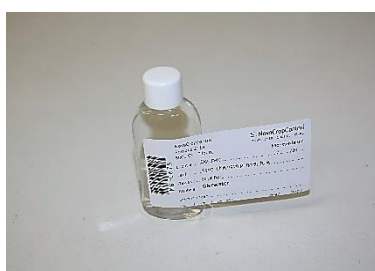
## Spring water

You can take a spring water sample by first running the pump for half an hour and then taking the sample. This is important because the water in the upper part may have reacted differently and is therefore not representative of the spring water.

If you want to know how much iron is present in the well, note "+ Fe in acid" on the bottle. This requires an additional test. Please note: an additional invoice will be sent afterwards for a blank analysis. This analysis is not accredited.

## Applying labels

After taking the sample place the cap on the bottle and turn the bottle around to check no air is left in the bottle. Fill in the labels and place them on the bottle. Pre-printed labels are preferred, this saves time and reduces the chance of errors. Please let us know if you need help with this. Place the sticker on the bottle as displayed below, make sure the barcode is clearly readable.





## Sending of samples

Keep in mind the following matters when sending the samples:

- Put all samples in one NovaCropControl envelope or one box so all samples arrive at the same time. (It is possible separate packages shipped on the same day will arrive on different days).
- Make sure the package is securely sealed. It is recommended to reinforce the closure with tape.
- Ensure that postage label on the envelopes and mailbox packages is sufficient.
- Larger sample quantities that do not fit into envelopes can be packaged in a box with a sufficient postage label.
- When shipping from outside of the EU consult our shipment guide for sending samples to avoid clearance delay at customs. You can find this guide on our website.

## Shipping address

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