NovaCropControl

Sampling guide

Almond

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.

Begin sampling by first fully developed leaves, then monthly to harvest, or sample by crop stage:

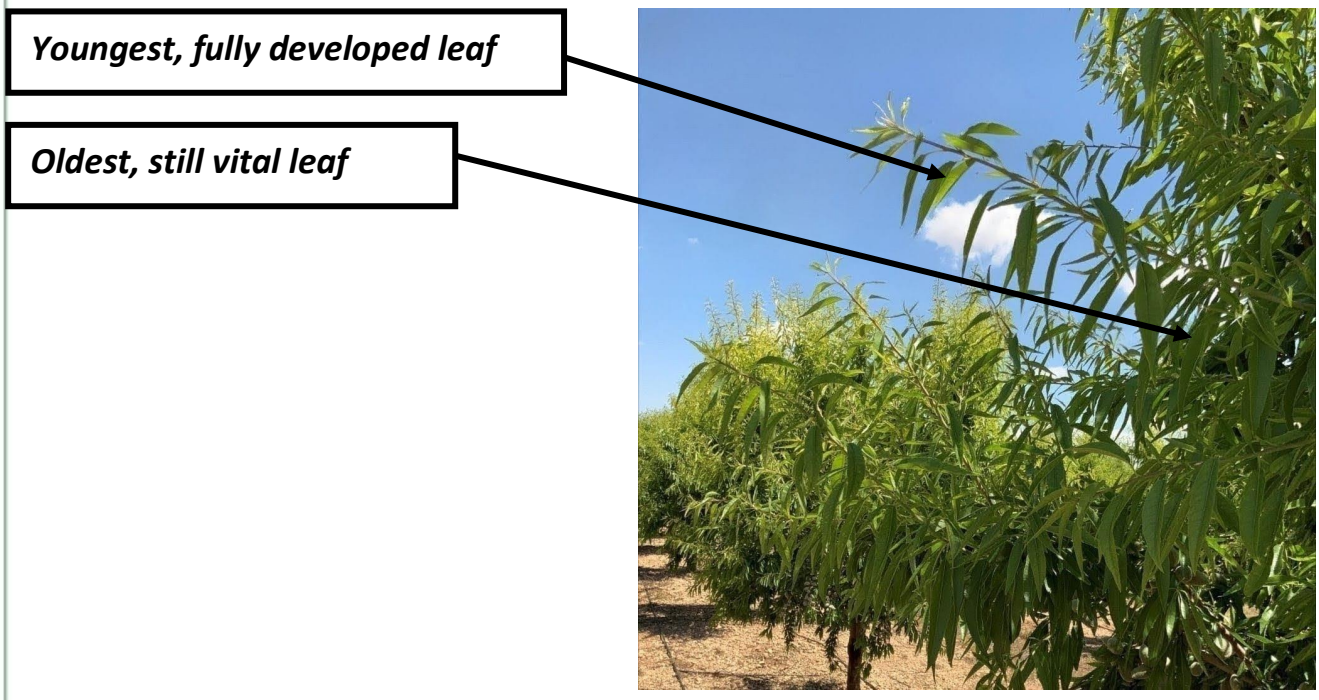
- First fully developed leaves
- At 50% fruit size
- At 100% fruit size
- 4 weeks after full fruit size
- At start dry off/at first hull split
- At harvest
- Before dormancy

Always use the same leaf position of a non-fruiting shoot: pick the first fully expanded leaf from the tip as young and the old leaf halfway the shoot.

Towards the end of the season, the leaves may already be very dry. At that point, it is very difficult to extract plant sap from them. Therefore, we advise against sending in leaves that are decaying, as we may not be able to perform a (complete) analysis.

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.



Sample size
In general 125 leaves should be enough per sample, 125-175 grams. This amount depends on type, size and shape of leaves. If in doubt about the sample size, please feel free to contact us.

The sap from almond leaves can be (partially) too slimy to test and perform a (complete) analysis. It is therefore very important to send in sufficient quantities.

Due to the complexity of the analysis of almond leaves, the processing time may be longer than for other crops. If the almond leaves are delivered to us in the morning, immediate analysis is usually not possible. In that case, the analysis will be carried out on the next working day.

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.

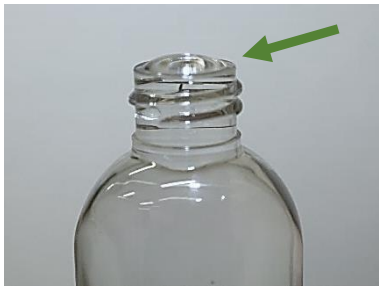
Sampling of fruits

Fruit analysis is only permitted within the EU.

Sampling fruits is very difficult with almonds. This is because almonds produce more oil than juice. We therefore advise **not** sampling almonds for analysis.

Sampling of water

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


Right

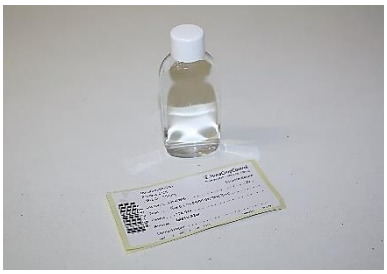

Wrong

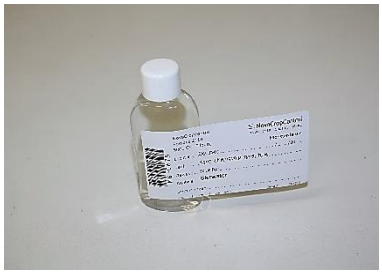

Wrong

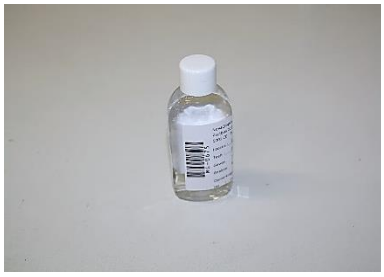
Spring water
You can take a spring water sample by first running the pump for half an hour and then taking the sample. This is important because the water in the upper part may have reacted differently and is therefore not representative of the spring water.

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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