

Plant sap sampling guide

Sweet cherry



Contact details

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Collecting and submitting samples

Location

Take the following steps into consideration when collecting leaf samples:

- Avoid the outer rows of the greenhouse or field and the first and last 10 yards of a row.
- Sample leaves with an average leaf quality.
- Sample abnormal plants with (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.
- 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 with sampling just before flowering, from then every two or three weeks until harvest (6 times young and old leaves). You can also choose to sample different stages:

- One month before flowering
- Beginning of flowering
- Early fruit set
- When fruit size is about 20 mm
- When fruit is fully grown

Plant parts

For a sweet cherry sample, pick the youngest, fully developed leaf from the first 6 inches of the top of the shoot. Also take the oldest, healthy leaf from the lowest 6 inches of the shoot (see pic. 1).

Remove the petioles from the leaf (till the start of the leaf disc). Petioles can have a significant effect on the analysis of the leaf sample. For the analysis you will have a separate old leaf sample and a young leaf sample.

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





Pic. 1

Sample size

For an average, representative sample about 60 leaves are needed, at least 150 grams. Sample size can vary, depending on leaf type (size and thickness). If you have questions about sample size, please contact us.





Packing the leaf samples

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 analyzed because water will have an influence on the results. Moreover, the leaves 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 stack the leaves, fold the leaves if needed, and put them in a plastic zip-lock bag carefully. Make sure all air is out, so any leaf evaporation is excluded.



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 leaf samples in zip-lock bags with barcode can be send in a box. Make sure you put all samples in one package so it will all arrive at the same time. In case you want to send one or two samples, you can put them in an envelope. Put sufficient postage on the envelope or package. Always check the weight. Please take care that envelopes and bags are sealed well. You can put an extra tape over the closure to avoid opening during transit.

Do you ship samples from outside Europe? To avoid clearance delay at the customs and high costs please consult our shipment guide for sending samples to Europe. You can find this guide at our website.

Please send samples to the address below:

NovaCropControl

Street: Nijverheidsweg 30

Zip-code: 5061 KL

Town: Oisterwijk

Country: The Netherlands

