



CORNELL NUTRIENT ANALYSIS LABORATORY

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Instructions for Leaf Sample Collection TREE FRUITS

1. Time to sample.

Between 60 and 70 days after average petal fall date.

2. What to sample.

Select 60-100 leaves from the middle of this current season terminal shoots. **If sampling is done later than 60 to 70 days after petal fall** select the first full-sized mature leaf behind the shoot tip. Select 1 or 2 leaves/shoot from several shoots on each of several trees located throughout the area being sampled. Select shoots that are well exposed to light.

Shoots sampled should be of **average** vigor (length and diameter) from the trees in the planting.

Large trees: sample 5 to 7 feet above ground level.

Small trees (young, trellised or slender spindle plantings): 3 to 6 feet above ground level.

Avoid excessively strong shoots (near pruning cuts) and extremely weak shoots.

Do not include spur leaves.

Do not include leaves that are damaged by: diseases; insects; weather or mechanical injury.

Do not mix leaves from trees of different varieties.

Do not mix leaves from trees of different ages.

Trees sampled should represent the **average** condition within the orchard unless special samples are being taken to determine cause(s) of a distinct problem or condition.

3. Soil conditions, past fertilizer practices and spray program.

Soil conditions, past fertilizer practices and spray program should be uniform over the entire sample area. If any of these conditions differ in different parts of the orchard it will be necessary to sample these areas separately.

4. Collecting and handling samples.

remove leaves by pulling downward so the petiole remains attached to the leaf. Place leaves in a dry paper bag or perforated plastic bag and immediately label the bag for identification. Wash the leaves before they wilt to remove spray residues and dirt. Gently rub the leaves together in a mild detergent solution (dish washing detergent in tap water). See **Washing leaf samples** below for washing instructions. Place sample into dry paper

bag, with top open and let dry at room temperature until the leaves are brittle.

5. Submission Form.

Fill out the tree fruit information sheet and return all three copies intact. You will be mailed a copy of the info sheet with your analysis. Be sure that the leaf sample bag and the information sheet have been marked with the same ID#.

6. Packaging, payment, and mailing instructions.

Please make check or money order payable to: Cornell Nutrient Analysis Lab, 804 Bradfield Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca NY 14853.

7. Washing leaf samples.

Wash the leaf samples while still fresh, before they wilt. If a large number of samples are involved they may be stored overnight in cold storage, refrigerator or ice chest to keep them from drying out.

Use distilled water, available at most drug stores, for washing and rinsing the sample. Change the water if it becomes dirty or after 8 to 10 samples (whichever occurs first). Gently and lightly scrub the leaves together in a mild detergent solution (most dish washing detergents are satisfactory).

Shake to remove excess water and immediately rinse the sample in clean distilled water. Again shake to remove excess water.

Shake to remove excess water and immediately rinse the sample in clean distilled water. Again shake to remove excess water.

Spread out sample on clean paper towels until leaf surfaces are dry.

Transfer sample to paper bag, with top open and dry at room temperature until the leaves are brittle.

NOTE: DO NOT let leaves to stand in water – complete the washing and rinsing process in one minute or less.

Additional submission forms for download are available on our website: <http://cnal.cals.cornell.edu>.