

Cucurbits (Cucumber, Squash, Melon) - Leaf Sap Sampling Guide

Time of sampling: Take samples in the morning before 11 am and temperatures less than 80°F to ensure adequate leaf tension and moisture. Avoid sampling in the rain. Store samples in a cooler.

Sample Size: Collect 80 grams of both new (young) and old leaves for a collected total of 160 grams per sample set. Collect new and old leaves separately. Initially use quart zip lock bags; as plants get larger use gallon sized bags.



NEW

Initial Sample: Begin sampling when plant has 6+ leaves. New fully expanded leaves only. Place leaves in quart sized zip lock bag.

Consecutive Samples: New and Old leaf set every 2+ weeks.

NEW: Sample youngest fully expanded leaves from the growing part of the plant. Place stacked leaves in gallon zip lock bag labeled NEW.

New leaf = newest yet fully developed leaf

OLD: Sample fully functional leaves, typically 1st/2nd leaf from base of plant. Place stacked leaves in separate gallon zip lock bag labeled OLD.

Old leaf = oldest yet still viable leaf.

****Do not mix varieties when sampling as may cause variation in analyses**

OLD

General:

1. Avoid outer rows and 1st 20 feet of a row.
2. Sample leaves with average leaf quality. Sample plants of abnormal growth separately.
3. Sample consistently (sunny side of the plant, avoid extreme weather etc.)
4. If leaves are wet at sampling lightly pat dry before shipping (moisture can influence results).
5. Sap analysis data works best when used in progression. The more samples the better crop nutrient uptake can be illustrated and understood.
6. Sample either before or 3+ days after fertilizer/pesticides have been applied.
7. **Keep samples cool.** Bring cooler to fields to store samples. **Ship 2-day or overnight on M/T/W (morning arrival time) with ice packs.** Samples should not come into direct contact with ice packs.

Sampling & sap analysis questions: contact your distributor or NEW AGE Labs (269) 637-5658