

HOW TO TAKE TISSUE SAMPLES

Leaf tissue analysis for the general fertility of a tree or shrub requires about 25 leaves taken from various sides of the plant. Only one gram of oven dry tissue is actually required for the analysis, but the larger amount is needed to give better statistical evaluation to the analysis. Sample the younger first fully formed leaves. These may be a foot back from the growing point for evergreen plants. Dusty or dirty leaves should be rinsed and dried before shipping. Turf samples can be taken from the bag of clippings. A hand full of clippings is more than adequate.

If the cause of unusual leaf appearances is being determined, sample the symptomatic leaves. In this case, it would be beneficial and helpful to include a sample of the better tissue for a comparative investigation.

For heavy metal toxicity, roots will normally show higher contaminant content. Some heavy metals do not move from the roots to the tops of plants. The smaller feeder roots are the best roots to sample. They need to be washed to remove the soil while not removing the epidermis (skin). Several ounces of roots are sufficient for a sample size.

Tissue samples can be sent undried if shipped immediately. If the transit time will be over several days in warm weather, the tissues should be air dried before shipping. If the tissues are in good condition, Wallace Laboratories will acid wash the tissues to remove additional contaminants from soil and dust.

If samples must be retained before shipping, and they are not air dried, store them in a refrigerator.

If edible produce is being analyzed for contaminants, include specific information if you wish to have the item washed or peeled.

We need to receive the tissue without having it partially rot. The mineral nutrition content is not too different if the tissue rots, but the amount of organic matter content will decrease changing the percent mineral content. In some cases, it may be best to ship early in the week.

How to Ship

Send the sample by mail, UPS or overnight carrier along with a brief description of the sample. Include the plant species name. For more than one sample, assign it a number and label the bag. Record the details in your files. Provide your name, phone number, address, and fax number if you wish to have the data faxed back.

Use this form when sending tissue sample

Company: _____
 Contact Name: _____
 Day time number: _____ Cell/Evening number: _____
 Fax number: _____ eMail Address: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Testing fee:
 1) Standard Analysis:.....**\$70.00 per sample**

Payable by Money Order or Checks only (please call in first to ensure you are getting the services needed)
 Amount of money order or check: _____ Check Number: _____

Site Description Number: _____ **Location:** _____ **Depth:** _____
 additional info: _____