

An Important Diagnostic Tool ...

A Plant Tissue Analysis

By Ward Laboratories, Inc.

- Helps in the detection of crop deficiencies and crop stress.
- Evaluates how well soil nutrients are being taken up by the plant.



Taking a Proper Plant Tissue Sample

Proper sampling is very important for correct interpretation of the analysis. Whole corn plant samples should be taken when corn is in the 3 to 5 leaf stage by cutting the plants one inch above the soil surface. A leaf stage is defined as a leaf that has condensed tissue between the blade and sheath called the collar. Three-leaf stage means there are three leaves on the corn plant where the collar is visible but does not include leaves in the whorl. At leaf stage 6 or greater the top leaf with a

collar should be sampled. Collect 15 plants at the 3-5 leaf stage or 15 leaves from larger corn plants noting the correct leaf stage so the laboratory may make the correct interpretation. As corn growth continues, several of the lower leaves will be lost but must be counted to determine the correct growth stage. Once the tassel appears, the ear leaf should be taken from 15 plants for a sample.

Soybean sampling before initial bloom should include the whole plant, cutting the plants off one inch above the soil surface. During the bloom stage, the top foliate

most recently developed trifoliate leaves without petiole from 15 plants make up the appropriate sample.

Whole wheat samples should be taken at any growth stage cutting the small plant off one inch above the soil surface. Once the joint stage has been reached, cut the samples off two inches above the surface.

Place collected plant samples in paper bags for submitting to Ward Laboratories for analysis. Do not place in a plastic bag. It is best to send the samples as soon as they are taken. Samples do not need to be chilled for shipping.



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