

Nutrite Tissue Test



How to Take a Turfgrass Tissue Sample?

A Nutrite Tissue Test determines the efficiency of turfgrass nutrition at a specific period of growth and is especially useful during Maintenance Programs or if problem areas are detected.

1. Take a few handfuls (about 1/2 lb or 500 g) of fresh clippings from the mower basket. Dry clippings by placing them in a ventilated drier at 60 - 70° C for 24 hours. Another, more common way, to dry the samples is to let them air dry on a piece of paper for a few days, indoors and away from dust. Once sample clippings are completely dry, place in a thin paper bag (do not use a plastic bag as even minute traces of moisture can cause decay in a sample). Seal and send to the laboratory address provided on the test request form.
2. Take tissue samples from both the problem area and from a healthy turf area in order to compare the test results.
3. Take a soil sample from the same problem area to compare results. A nutrient deficiency in the leaf does not necessarily mean a deficiency in the soil.
4. Sample at least two weeks after fertilizing or liming.
5. Sample at least two days after any pesticide application.
6. Do not take a sample from a dead turf area. Some yellow leaves present in a green turf area are acceptable.
7. Do not take samples from scalped areas, worn areas, diseased turf or turf affected by insect infestation.
8. Do not collect tissue samples when turf is stressed by heat, cold, and/or drought. (These conditions bring on reduced nutrient absorption hindering a "true" result).
9. Take tissue samples before applying topdressing to the turf area.
10. Each sample bag should be properly identified and all Test Analysis Request Forms should be correctly completed and accompany the samples to the laboratory address provided on the test request form.