



Peach Quality Program

FACT SHEET

Begin Sampling Early Before it is too Late!

This program is designed to use tissue and soil analysis as a management tool to produce top quality fruit. The timely use of analysis will allow the grower to monitor the performance of the crop and make the necessary nutritional amendments to the crop to ensure top performance and quality. Analysis should begin with a good up to date soil analysis. Complete sampling identifying soil type variability is important (using GPS is preferred). Tissue samples should be collected and grouped based on the soils types. Mixing tissue samples from different soil types will add error to the results.

A pro-active approach to tissue analysis will monitor crop performance in the field and provide valuable nutritional information on the crop before nutrients become limiting or drop below a critical level where they will effect the yield or quality of the crop.

Using tissue analysis **LEAF TISSUE** sampling early before the crop show nutrient deficiencies allow the grower to tailor make nutritional amendments to that crop for that season.

Sampling Timing

First Sample:

Timing is extremely important, the earlier the sample is taken the better the results in applying corrective amendments. The first sample should be taken as soon as enough leaf material is present in the spring to get a full leaf from themidshoot up until fruit set. Remove enough leaf blades to fill a pint loosely packed usually 25-30 leaves. At this time we will be able to determine the nutrient status and be able to correct or amend any shortcomings before they become critical.

Second Sample:

This sample should be taken mid-season again to monitor the status of the crop and in time that we can make any necessary additions or amendments to the fertility program before they become limiting or to enhance the quality. At this time some foliar treatments are possible to improve quality before harvest.

Shipping Samples:

Make sure samples are well labeled.

Place each sample in a well-labeled, clean paper bag and deliver to the laboratory as soon as possible. If there is a delay, keep the bags open in a dry well ventilated place. This will begin the drying process and prevent molding.

A & L CANADA
LABORATORIES, INC.

2136 Jetstream Rd
London, ON N5V3P5

Phone: 519-457-2575
Fax: 519-457-2664
aginfo@alcanada.com
www.alcanada.com

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NEVER USE PLASTIC BAGS.

If you courier samples to the lab overnight they do not need to be washed.

Washing Samples for Shipment:

Leaf blades have a greater surface area for collecting dust and should be washed if they are noticeably dirty. They should be washed in water containing a small amount of detergent followed by rinsing in tap water and two distilled water rinses. Remember, however, that some elements (particularly K, Na and Cl) are easily leached from necrotic or dead tissue. Washing should therefore be accomplished quickly, and excess water blotted from the leaves.