

TriCal Diagnostics

Guidelines for collecting and submitting plant samples

For above-ground samples (foliage, flowers, fruit), surfaces of the material must be dry. Do not collect and send materials that are wet from rain, irrigation (allow them to first dry). If materials are damp, pack with a dry paper towel when putting them in the plastic bag.

For below-ground samples, roots and adhering soil can be moist but should not be overly wet. Use a shovel or trowel to dig up the roots (do not pull the plant out of the ground). Gently shake the root system to remove most of the soil (soil is not used in the tests).

As much as possible, collect and send the entire plant, since a complete analysis includes roots.

Collect a sufficient number of plants so that the sample is representative of the situation. In general the “more is better” rule applies. We suggest the following minimum numbers for samples: 12 to 15 symptomatic flowers, 10 to 12 symptomatic leaves, 10 to 12 symptomatic fruit, 4 to 5 entire plants (for plant collapse symptoms).

As much as possible, collect a representative series of plants showing how the problem is progressing: a healthy plant, and plants showing early, middle, and advanced symptoms.

Place the sample in a plastic bag that is large enough to contain the entire sample; tie up or otherwise seal the bag.

Label the bag (or attach labels) with your name and identifying information (location where sample was collected, ranch name, lot number, etc.). If samples come from different ranches or locations, put samples in separate bags since they should be tested separately.

Prior to hand-delivering or shipping, most bagged samples can be stored for a short time in a refrigerator. However, do not store samples at room temperature or in a freezer.

If using our drop-off locations (Salinas or Watsonville) or office (Gilroy or Hollister), fill out a submission form and bring the sample.

If shipping, place the bag in a box (do not use flat cardboard mailers; samples always get crushed in these). Include submission form and appropriate permit copy. Ship the sample to the Gilroy address using overnight/next day delivery. Do not have boxes shipped out on a Friday (it will not be delivered until Monday, thereby compromising the sample).

Addresses

Hand-delivered walk-in and drop-off samples can be left at the following locations:

TriCal
8100 Arroyo Circle
Gilroy, California 95020

For sample drop-off, open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays.

TriCal Diagnostics
8770 Highway 25
Hollister, California 95023

For sample drop-off, open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays.

Salinas drop-off location:
Grower-Shipper Association (refrigerator in back of the mail/copy room)
512 Pajaro Street
Salinas, California 93902

For sample drop-off, open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays.

Watsonville drop-off location:
UC Cooperative Extension office
1430 Freedom Blvd, Suite E
Watsonville, California 95076

For sample drop-off, open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Closed daily 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays.

For overnight/next day delivery and mailing:

TriCal, Inc.
Attn: Diagnostics
8100 Arroyo Circle
Gilroy, California 95020
Phone: 831-637-0195

