



# IFAS Analytical Services Laboratories Extension Soil Testing Laboratory

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## Container Media Test Information Sheet

Mailing Address (please print)

**Note: This Lab Only Tests Samples from the State of Florida.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ FL Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \* \_\_\_\_\_

**Direct any questions regarding this test or the interpretation of the results to your county Extension Agent.**

\* In order to expedite reporting of results; please provide an e-mail address if possible.

Fill in all requested information, using one line per sample and additional sheets for more than 10 samples.				
Lab Use Only	Sample Identification	County	Plants to be grown	Cost
				\$10.00
				\$10.00
				\$10.00
				\$10.00
				\$10.00
				\$10.00
				\$10.00
				\$10.00

**Please enclose payment and this sheet in the same package as sample(s)**

**Please make checks and money order payable to UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**

Check \_\_\_\_\_ Money Order \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_

**Samples will not be processed without payment. Do not send cash through the mail.**

### Important Information For Sample Collection and Submission

- The CONTAINER MEDIA TEST is designed for estimating the nutritional needs of plants grown under intensive management typical of container-plant production. Specialized interpretation of these results is necessary. Results are not meaningful in agronomic situations or for home vegetable or flower gardens.
1. Proper sampling techniques must be followed for reliable test results. Please follow the detailed sampling instructions on the back of this form. Please do not dry your samples.
  2. Label each sample bag and record this same label in the Sample Identification column above.
  3. Enter the crop(s) from which your media sample was taken under the Plants to be grown column.
  4. Calculate the cost at \$10.00 per sample. Make either a check or money order payable to: **University of Florida**. Checks written in any other name(s) will NOT be honored and returned and will cause avoidable delay in processing the samples.
  5. Include this sheet, labeled samples, and payment in a corrugated mailing box. Mail to the IFAS Extension Soil Testing Laboratory.
- IFAS Analytical Services Laboratories  
Extension Soil Testing Laboratory  
PO Box 110740  
Wallace Bldg. 631  
Gainesville, FL 32611-0740**
- Additional sample bags and mailing boxes may be obtained from your local county Extension office free of charge.

# Instructions and Information for the Container Media Test Information Sheet

The Container Media Test includes the following analyses:  
 pH, Electrical Conductivity, NO<sub>3</sub>-N, P, K, Ca, and Mg.

## Collection of media samples

Construct a diagram of the nursery growing beds and divide the nursery into blocks (groups of beds) which contain plants that are treated and grown under similar conditions. For example, plants of the same genera or species growing in the same media and irrigated similarly should comprise one block. Plants of the same species which receive less irrigation water, or are growing in a different medium, or have a different container size would comprise another block. The intent of such blocking is to group plants into sets which can be represented by a single CONTAINER MEDIA sample. Results from this sample should apply logically to all plants within the block.

Media from potted plants grown in greenhouses may be sampled in a similar manner. In this case, each block might represent a different greenhouse, while beds would represent greenhouse benches.

While the number of growing beds or benches per block will vary among the production systems, an example should make this sampling technique clear. Assume a production system composed of six beds for each of four blocks (Fig. 1). One of the beds of plants in a block, for example bed 1, should be sampled each sampling time. Future media tests from bed 1 can be compared with previous test results from the same bed to detect errors in either sampling or in the extraction process. Using a sample probe, one core of media should be removed from each of 5 to 20 containers in bed 1. At each sampling time, also remove media from 5 to 20 containers from each of two or three other growing beds in the same block. At the next sampling time, sample the check bed and two or three beds not sampled the previous time.

After completing all sampling, refer to the directions on the front of this sheet (page 1) before submitting your samples to the UF/IFAS Extension Soil Testing Laboratory.

## Test results:

A soil test report will be emailed / mailed to you within 5 to 10 days after your sample arrives at the Extension Soil Testing Laboratory. Contact your county Extension office if you have questions concerning the Soil Test Report.

## Notes:

