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PLANT TISSUE Sampling Guidelines

CITRUS

GRAPEFRUIT
LEMON
LIME
MINEOLA
ORANGE
TANGERINE

Recommended timing

Leaf tissue samples may be collected at any time during the growing season. University of California guidelines suggest taking samples from spring growth cycle leaves that are 5 to 7 months old. It is thought that the least change in mineral concentration occurs in such leaves. This sampling time would be late August to September. Interpretation of tissue samples taken at other times are generally interpolated from a knowledge of how nutrient concentration changes as the season progresses and from historical database information.

Sampling

For all leaf samples, select trees which are of similar age, variety, rootstock, and vigor. Leaves should be taken about 4-6 feet above ground. Always sample terminal leaves from non-fruiting and non-flushing shoots. Select a leaf from each of the four quadrants of an individual tree, and sample 20-25 trees from the block. Thus, the sample should be a composite of about 80-100 leaves.

Preferred analyses

Whole leaves – Test code 1254.

