

Greenhouse Media Sampling Instructions

It is very important that you take the necessary steps to obtain a representative sample.

Procedure:

1. Sampling:

- a) **Potting or transplanting media pile:** Collect samples from at least 10 locations in the pile, combine and thoroughly mix.
- b) **Potted plants:** Collect media samples from root depth of at least 10 pots. Combine and thoroughly mix.
- c) **Ground beds or bench crops:** Collect cores from top to bottom of media from at least 10 locations, combine and thoroughly mix.

2. Place about 2 cups of your well mixed media sample in a heavy zip-lock bag labeled with your Sample ID and completed submission form. Samples should be submitted "as is" and do not requiring drying.

Hand deliver or mail the sample, submission form, and a check or money order **payable to UMass** to the address listed at the front of this form. Samples should be delivered to the lab as quickly as possible to prevent spoilage.

Greenhouse Media Test Descriptions & Fees

Standard Media Test: \$30.00

Includes pH of water saturated media, electrical conductivity, and nutrient content (nitrate-N, ammonium-N, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, manganese, zinc, copper, iron, and boron) of saturated media extract.

Optional Testing

Organic Matter Percentage: \$6.00

Measurement of soil organic matter by loss on ignition at 360 degrees C

Additional Elements: \$5.00

Extractable sulfur (S) and sodium (Na) of water saturated media (*may be added on to Standard Media Test only*)

Media pH and Soluble Salts Only: \$15.00

Provides pH and electrical conductivity of the water saturated media

Optional Testing

Organic Matter Percentage: \$6.00

Measurement of soil organic matter by loss on ignition at 360 degrees C

Note: For irrigation water or nutrient solutions used in hydroponics, deduct \$5.00 from total fee.