UF IFAS Extension UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Revised November 2013 SL134

Mailing Address (please print)

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

_____ FL, Zip _____ Phone _____

Email* _____
*Please provide an email address to receive your results faster.

Signature _____
(signature only required for UF personnel for approval of chartfield charges)

UF/IFAS Analytical Services Laboratories
Extension Soil Testing Laboratory
2390 Mowry Road/PO Box 110740/Wallace Building 631
Gainesville, FL 32611-0740
Email: soilslab@ifas.ufl.edu Website: http://soilslab.ifas.ufl.edu

CONTAINER MEDIA TEST FORM

Note: This lab only tests samples from Florida.

Direct any questions about this test or the interpretation of the results to your county UF/IFAS Extension agent.

Fill in all requested information, using one line per sample. Use additional forms for more than 13 samples.

Lab Use only	Sample ID	County	Plants to be grown	Cost
				$10
				$10
				$10
				$10
				$10
				$10
				$10
				$10
				$10
				$10
				$10
				$10
				$10

Check ○ Money Order ○ Cash ○ Total_____

Please enclose payment and this sheet in the same package as sample(s).
Please make checks and money orders payable to **UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA.**
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 to estimate 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 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 in the Sample ID 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 per sample. Make either a check or money order payable to **University of Florida**. Checks written to other names will NOT be honored and will be returned, causing a delay in processing the samples.
5. Include this sheet, labeled samples, and payment in a corrugated mailing box. Mail to the UF/IFAS Extension Soil Testing Laboratory.

UF/IFAS Analytical Services Laboratories
Extension Soil Testing Laboratory
Wallace Bldg. 631
2390 Mowry Road
PO Box 110740
Gainesville, FL 32611-0740

Additional sample bags and mailing boxes may be obtained from your local county UF/IFAS Extension office free of charge.

Instructions and Information for the Container Media Test Form

The Container Media Test includes the following analyses:
pH, electrical conductivity, NO_3-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) that contain the plants 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 receiving less irrigation water, growing in a different medium, or having a different container size would comprise another block. The intent of blocking is to group plants into sets that can be represented by a single container media sample. Results from this sample should apply logically to all plants in 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.

The number of growing beds or benches per block will vary among production systems, so an example should help make this sampling technique clear. Assume a production system of six beds for each of four blocks (Figure 1). One of the plant beds 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 5–20 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 form before submitting your samples to the UF/IFAS Extension Soil Testing Laboratory.

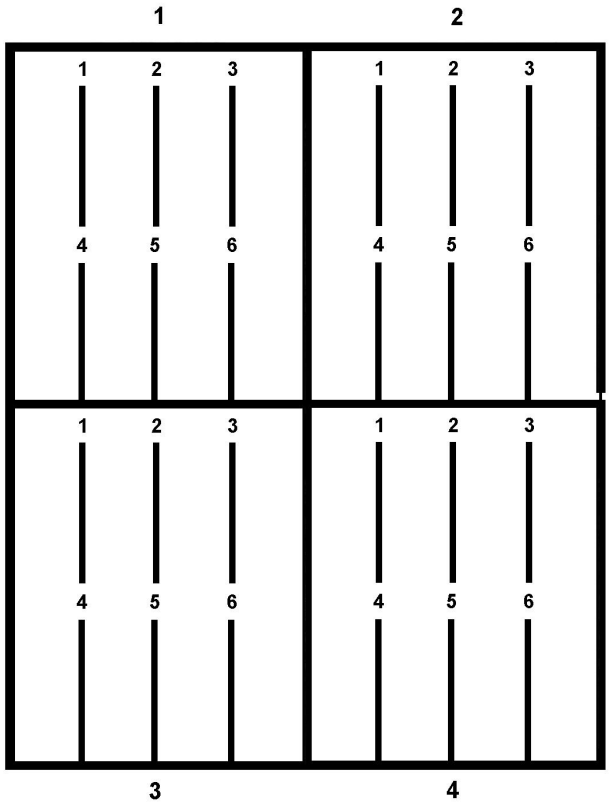

Figure 1.

Test Results

A soil test report will be emailed/mailed to you in 3–5 days after your sample arrives at the Extension Soil Testing Laboratory. Contact your county UF/IFAS Extension office if you have questions about the soil test report.

Notes: