

Instructions and Information for the Container Media Test Form

The Container Media Test includes the following analyses:
pH, electrical conductivity, NO₃-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.

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:

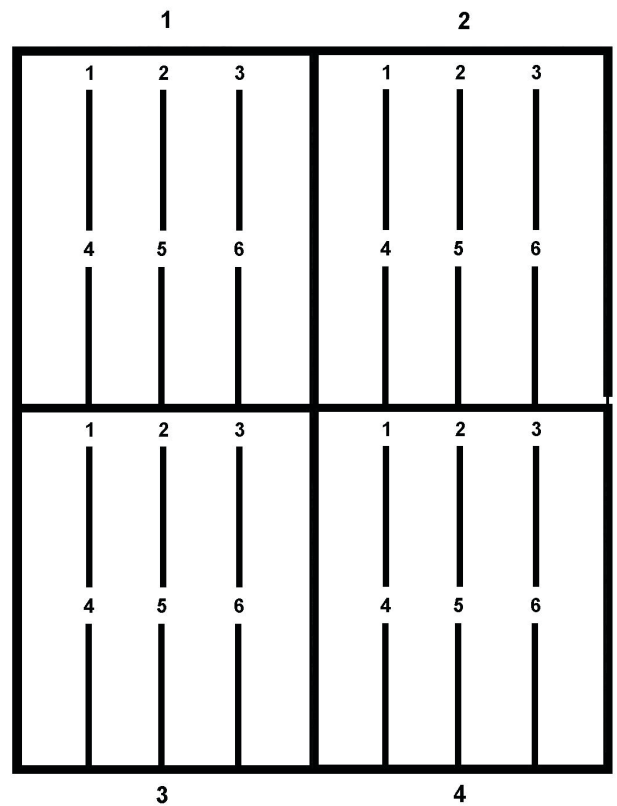


Figure 1.