



Plant Sap Testing

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*In a recent **Ground Work**, we shared our excitement and enthusiasm for several new products and technologies we are using, trialing, or exploring ... including **plant sap testing**.*

Proponents of plant sap testing say that it is better able to predict the future needs of the plant than is tissue testing. So first, let's refresh our minds on tissue testing.

Tissue testing has long been utilized to determine the nutrient status of crops, and can be a useful tool to identify nutrients that might be limiting your crop's yield and quality potential. Tissue testing tells you what nutrients "have" gone into the plant tissue. It helps you answer these questions: What is the current nutrient status of my crop? How has my fertility plan held up in this growing season? In other words, tissue testing is a look backward.

Plant sap testing, on the other hand, is a look forward. It looks at the sap within the plant leaves and not the leaf tissue itself. The plant sap is the pipeline of nutrients that "will" be going into the plant tissue. Plant sap testing helps you answer the question: How is my crop likely to end up as it heads to the finish line?

Plant sap testing involves gathering both new leaves and older leaves from the same plant and comparing the nutrient content in the sap of both leaves. Because some nutrients are mobile within the plant, this comparison gives an indication of whether the plant has cannibalized itself to meet the nutrient demand of the newest growth.

AgriEnergy is excited to be working with Crop Health Labs to offer plant sap testing this year.

- If you are interested in plant sap testing, you will need to order a packet from Crop Health Labs (www.crophealthlabs.com). The packet will include containers, preprinted shipping labels, and instructions.
- Plant sap testing will require that you gather samples early on a Monday and ship them to Crop Health Labs, who will in turn ship them to the Netherlands for testing.
- The cost is in the \$65-\$75/sample range.

Contact your **AgriEnergy Resources** representative if you are interested in learning more about Plant Sap Testing or any of the other new technologies and products we've been discussing!