



EMERGENCE *	RAMIFICATION	APERTURE	FLOWERING	MATURATION	SPEARS **
<b>RECOMMENDED SAMPLING INTERVALS</b>					

\* Samples at Emergence can be of the whole plant or single leaf sets.

\*\* For Spears, sample a smaller new spear and a larger old spear.

## **Asparagus Sampling Instructions:**

1. Sample New (upper) fronds and Old (lower) fronds *SEPARATELY* in *individually labeled bags*.
  - a. New = newest **recently-mature growth** from top fronds or young spears.
  - b. Old = oldest **still-viable growth** from lower fronds or older larger spears.
2. Select **representative field samples** of new fronds/spears and old fronds/spears from 10-20 plants of the same cultivar and growing conditions. Each sample (new and old) should **fill a 1qt plastic bag**.
  - a. For larger spears, you may need a **1-gallon bag**.
3. **Remove stems and branches**, and all other plant material (except fronds or spears) from samples.
4. Complete a [Sampling Label](#) (linked), including contact info, crop, cultivar, new/old sample, etc. Affix labels to the **outside** of sealable sample bags. ***(Do not use paper bags or include paper in bags)***
5. Cold Packs and/or insulated packaging are recommended when shipping samples in warm conditions. Wrap frozen cold-packs in paper to insulate them from direct contact with samples.
6. Mail samples to:

**Apical Crop Science**  
**1382 SE 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave Suite 4**  
**Canby, OR 97013**

## **Tips for best results:**

1. **Obtain optimal plant health** by conducting **4-6 Leaf Extract Analyses** throughout the growing season (see the table above for minimum recommended sampling intervals).
2. **Assess and resolve stress, pests, or toxicities** by testing and treating **weekly** until desired health is achieved.
3. Always sample at a consistent time of day, preferably prior to 10 am to ensure minimal transpiration - about two hours after sunrise is optimal.
4. Ensure samples are as clean as possible - dew, dirt, dust, and fertilizers can affect test accuracy.
  - o If samples are not clean, wash them with clean, non-chlorinated cold water.
5. Ensure samples are surface-dry (**not dried out**) before bagging - dew, rain, and condensation affect accuracy.
  - o If samples are not dry, please dry with paper towel or air dry to ensure they are not wet in sample bag.
  - o **Please do NOT leave paper towels (or anything that will dry out plant material) in bags with samples.**