

May 2009 Service Bulletin

Pre-Sidedress Nitrate Soil Test (PSNT)

Nitrogen management is becoming more critical as the price of N products rise. Measuring how much Nitrate-Nitrogen is available as close to sidedress time as possible (3-5 leaf stage), allows a recommended sidedress rate using the "Delta Yield" concept. These rates are suggested based on crop response, rather than estimating what the yield will be at harvest. Agri-Food Laboratories recommends a Zone Management PSNT approach, sampling areas of differing soil types independently; or at the very least, dividing sampling areas into high, mid, and low slope positions.



Soybean Cyst Nematode Test:

Monitoring SCN populations can aid decisions pertaining to crop rotation and soybean-resistant variety selection.

To ensure that there is adequate soil to perform an SCN count, please provide a separate sample as opposed to including the SCN test as an option alongside nutrient testing.

Rapid Scissor Cut Evaluation:

To assist in determining cutting dates for forage crops, in conjunction with the Growing Degree Days evaluator on our website, the Rapid Scissor Cut Evaluation assesses quality in a 24 hour turnaround.

**FORAGE GROWING
DEGREE DAYS 2009**

Multiple random sub-samples can be collected at approximate harvest height, and combined into one sample.

Prompt shipment to the lab will allow immediate analysis by NIR, producing next day results.

Management Decisions After 1st Cut Forage Harvest:

After the first cut of forage has been harvested, there is a window of opportunity to perform tests which can help guide future nutrient management decisions:

- Soil sampling the field will provide recommendations to meet the fertility needs of the forage crop, especially for potash as it is removed in large quantities.
- Manure testing will measure nutrients available, allowing optimum rates of manure application, and in conjunction with a soil test will guide application to fields that are in the greatest need.

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