

## Technical Note

# Pasture Tissue Sampling Protocol

### 1. Collection of Sample – Timing and Growth Stage

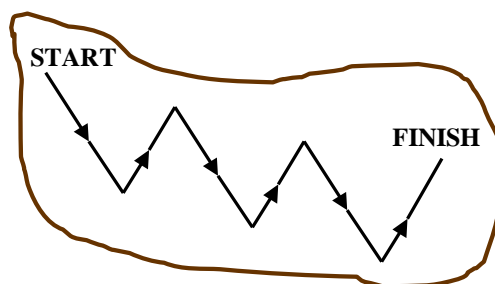
Timing is extremely important as interpretation guidelines are established at a specific growth stage for pasture crops. Correct timing is also especially important as some nutrient levels can change fairly rapidly and any significant differences in time of sampling can lead to a variation in the interpretations. If possible avoid sampling after fungicide or nutrient spray applications, as this will contaminate samples.

**Phosyn Analytical** has specific analytical programs to assist in the nutritional management of pasture crops through the analysis of plant tissue.

The optimum sampling time for pasture samples is generally during the active growing cycle, that is, during the spring or autumn flush.

### 2. Collecting the Sample

Design your sampling plan similar to the W-sampling plan as detailed below and try to ensure that the sample is representative of what the livestock are consuming:



Using a pair of clean rust-free scissors or shears, collect 15 to 20 small handfuls of grass (about 5cm from the ground) from sites throughout the sampling area and combine in the **Phosyn Analytical** paper plant sample bag. Analysis at the vegetative growth stage provides an excellent opportunity for the application of nutritional products to correct for any nutritional deficiencies.

1. Each sample should be taken from a uniform section of the paddock of the same soil type.

2. Complete the details on the analysis request form and please remember to include:

- (a) The Grower details in the Client details field and
- (b) Growth Stage (in the Growth stage column)

**Please note that the service code for this test is 'P3'** (this should be written in the 'Tests Required' column).

An example of a completed **Phosyn Analytical** request form is shown below:

LAB SAMPLE REF Office use only	CLIENT SAMPLE REF	PADDOCK REF (& GPS Ref if available)	SAMPLE TYPE (soil, leaf, fruit, fruitlet, tuber, petiole etc)	CROP DETAILS	GROWTH STAGE	AREA (Ha)	TESTS REQUIRED <i>(See inside of front cover)</i>
EXAMPLE	BLOCK 33	PADDOCK 1	LEAF	PASTURE	VEGETATIVE	50	P3

### 3. Care of Samples – Collection and despatch

Samples can be contaminated by some fungicides and nutrient sprays, which may give erroneous laboratory results. Wash hands and preferably use the white **Phosyn Analytical** paper bags provided. Avoid the use of plastic bags for plant tissue samples because of moisture condensation and possible breakdown of the samples. Wherever possible, please collect and dispatch samples by the first half of the week to ensure that the samples arrive at the laboratory before the weekend. Always mail samples on the same day as they are taken from the paddock.

### 4. Sample Information

Carefully complete the **Phosyn Analytical Analysis request form** and sample details on the Phosyn paper sample bag. Please remember to include the top (white) request form with the samples when mailing to the laboratory for analysis. Please retain the carbon copy for your own information. After analysis is complete, **Phosyn Analytical** will forward the analysis results to you in a report complete with analysis interpretations and recommendations.

***For further information contact Phosyn Analytical or your local agronomist/consultant.***

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