

Crop Information

This content is only available in English.

Apple Sampling Program

Apple Program

This program is designed to monitor the fruit crops performance during the season with emphasis on improving and maintaining the quality and storage capabilities of the fruit. The information that is available at the present time has been developed by A & L in cooperation with growers in Ontario. A & L Canada has been involved in a monitoring and research program since 1987 on apples, peaches, and cherries and has developed optimum ranges that give us information on the nutritional status of the fruit tree and storage quality of the finished product.

The Procedure for the sampling is as follows:

"It is important that you do not mix the varieties from different soil types."

Full Season Sampling Program

1st Test (Leaf)

During early stages as soon as you can get a fully developed leaf off the new wood growth.

2nd Test (Fruitlet)

When the fruit has reached about one inch in diameter, we require a fruit analysis.

3rd Test (Leaf)

This test is optional. If the grower has taken samples at this time in past seasons to determine nutritional status, the test can be used as a reference. The tree is under too much stress at this time and this sample does not give a true indication of the orchard's nutritional status. A better test is diagnostic comparative sampling (good areas versus bad) can be conducted to determine the origin of problems.

4th Test (Fruit)

Two weeks before harvest we will require a fruit sample to give us information on storage quality and information on modifications to next season fertility program. This sample will also give us information on pre-harvest drop information so that we can schedule picking.

Soil Test

Each block should have an annual soil test done in the early fall to plan for the following spring program. Soil type should be kept separate and not mixed. Mixing soils will give you a poor interpretation of the soil's nutrient condition and may mask problem areas.

Once you have developed a sample map, the different varieties should be marked using any acetate over the soil types for record and planning your tissue-sampling program. Tissue samples should not be taken from different soil types.

The use of site specific and GPS technology will make sampling the orchard much easier.