

Sampling Guide for Pesticide Residues testing

What to test for?

A variety of methods have been developed covering pesticides with different chemical properties. For example, suites for acidic herbicides such as Triclopyr, or a multiresidue suite to screen for Maximum Residue Limits. A list of the compounds in each suite can be found in Technical Notes on our website. If the compound of interest is not listed in these suites, please contact us.

Before you start

It's important to take a few moments to plan your sampling strategy. The accuracy of the final results are very much dependent on how well the sample is taken and how representative it is of the whole crop or product. Take individual or small sample quantities from separate bins and/or different parts of the bins if taking from the packhouse. If samples are to be taken from the field, follow a diagonal to diagonal transect across the orchard or sampling region. (NOTE: Sampling instructions provided are generic. Please refer to industry standards for specific sampling protocols.)

Sample kits are available on request, please see our contact details below. The kit consists of a sample bag, analysis request form and a pre-paid return courier bag.

Sample size requirements

The number of units to be taken per sample will depend on the sample size as summarized below.

Large size samples e.g. pumpkin, squash	2 units per sample
Medium size samples e.g. onions, apples, avocado (approx. 2 kg)	10 – 15 units per sample
Small size samples e.g. kiwifruit	15 – 20 units per sample
Very Small size samples e.g. spinach, lettuce, cabbage, berry fruit, asparagus	500 g – 1 kg
Leaf samples e.g. grape leaves, strawberry leaves	150 g – 300 g
Liquid samples e.g. milk, juice	200 mL

Sampling method and sending to the Laboratory

Samples should be taken with minimal handling and placed directly into a sealed plastic bag. The bags should be clearly labelled by writing directly onto the bag or onto a tag using a permanent marker pen.

Write sample details onto the sample submission form. These forms are available electronically from our website.

Place sample bags/bottles and completed submission form in courier bag provided. Send to Hill Labs as soon as possible. The address can be found at the top right hand corner of sample submission form. The samples can be held at 4°C for **no more than 48 hours**. Alternatively, samples can be submitted frozen.

Contact Details

For further information, please contact Food@hill-labs.co.nz or phone 07 858 2000.