

Sampling Collection Procedures for FasTEST*

FasTEST provides rapid and accurate analysis of aquatic herbicide concentrations in water. FasTEST assay services are available for monitoring the following SePRO aquatic products: Sonar*, Renovate® 3, Renovate® OTF, Renovate® MAX G, Galleon* SC, Sculpin* G, Captain*, K-Tea*, SeClear*, Komeen*, Nautique*, Clearcast®, Habitat®, Oasis® and Stingray®. It is extremely important to maintain a contamination free environment during water sample collection. Do not collect water samples from a boat that was used to apply the SePRO aquatic product you are monitoring. All equipment and clothes used during sampling should be completely free of the aquatic herbicide.

Follow these collection steps in sequence:

1. **Complete FasTEST Chain of Custody (COC) and enclose with sample(s). This is included with sampling bottles, or may be downloaded from the SePRO website. Appropriate billing information MUST be completed before analysis.**
2. Draw a map, or attach a map, of the water body and location of each water collection on accompanying Chain of Custody. Number each sample location and transfer to page one of the Chain of Custody.
3. Complete accompanying sample water bottle labels and affix labels to sample bottles. Number each sample water bottle with corresponding sample location number from COC form. Include date and name of water body on label.
4. At the collection site, remove the bottle cap from the designated bottle, triple rinse the bottle with water from this site and submerge the bottle upside down until elbow deep. Should your program require sampling at depth, utilize the proper device to collect water from the target depth or depths.
5. Turn the bottle upright and allow filling as you slowly bring the bottle toward the surface.
6. When the bottle is full, yet still underwater at the targeted collection depth; screw the cap back on the bottle. It is recommended to secure cap with tape to prevent the cap loosening during shipment.
7. Place the sample bottle(s) in a cooler and close the lid to prevent exposure to sunlight.
8. Refrigerate samples if they will not be shipped within 24-hours of collection to keep samples cool until shipment. Do not ship samples collected on a Friday, refrigerate and ship Monday.
9. Do not ship samples in loose ice.
10. We request that samples are overnighted and ice packs are used when outdoor temperatures reach 90 plus degrees. Shipping via FedEx is recommended. Note, shipments by U.S. mail typically require additional time in transit to the SRTC.
11. Ship samples to: **SePRO Research & Technology Campus**
16013 Watson Seed Farm Road
Whitakers, NC 27891-9114
E-mail: srtclab@sepro.com
Tel: (252) 437-3282
12. If you have questions pertaining to sample collection, please contact your SePRO Aquatic Specialist. If you need to order FasTEST sample bottles, please contact the SRTC at **(252) 437-3282** or by e-mail, **srtclab@sepro.com**. COC forms are available on our web site **www.sepro.com/lab**.

FAQs

Q. Why ship Chain of Custody (COC) in a plastic bag?

A. When the Chain of Custody is not protected from moisture, it may become wet and thus very difficult to read...if we can't read or salvage the COC, the sample cannot be analysed until we establish where the sample originated. This may result in later turnaround than our 48-hour policy for water analysis.

Q. Why ship overnight?

A. Shipping overnight ensures that your watersample is not left in an environment (such as the back of a delivery truck or warehouse) in which external factors may affect sample integrity.

Q. Why ship samples on ice?

A. We know that water samples maintain their integrity if kept on ice or in a cold environment; we do not know the same about samples that arrive warm or hot, this leaves the potential for skewed results.

Q. Why send water samples in an opaque Nalgene® bottle?

A. Many of the herbicides we test for are broken down by photolysis (absorption of light), so translucent bottles may promote additional breakdown before analysis is complete.