

Procedures for Aquatic Plant Sample Collection

The following procedures are provided to ensure that plant collections are adequate for analysis and that sample integrity is maintained during shipment. It is critical that these steps are followed to provide the best and most accurate recommendations and results.

1. Please consult with your territory SePRO Aquatic Specialist to design an appropriate sampling protocol for your project. Please send only hydrilla, milfoil or egeria, unless otherwise specified by your Aquatic Specialist.
2. Complete **Chain of Custody (COC)** form for the corresponding analysis (GenTEST*, PlanTEST* or EffecTEST*). Sample results will not be reported until a COC is received by the laboratory.
3. **Water samples** must be collected at the same sites as plant samples for post-treatment samples. Label water samples and plant samples from the same site identically.
4. **For GenTEST (genetics analysis):** Consult with your SePRO Aquatic Specialist to determine the appropriate analysis level and sampling protocol.

For PlanTEST (pretreatment) samples: Collect 40 - 60 apical tips from each sample site, 4 - 6" in length. For some plant species, collection of vegetative propagules or seeds may be preferred. Please consult with your SePRO Aquatic Specialist.

For EffecTEST (posttreatment) samples: Collect enough plant tissue to fill a one-gallon ziplock bag. While posttreatment samples can often be in poor condition, these plants can still provide valuable data. Corresponding water samples need to be collected at these sites as well.

5. **Rinse** plants thoroughly to remove excess mud and algae.
6. Place plants in a ziplock bag and **drain** excess water. **Label** each ziplock bag with the name of lake, sample date and site number.
7. Place samples in a cooler with cool packs and ship via **overnight express** (morning delivery). Please make sure your cooler is not leaking. Packages that are leaking do not get delivered. FedEx is the preferred method. Please do not ship via U.S. Mail.
8. Ideally, plants should be shipped on the same day of collection. If this is not possible, store plants in a cooler with an ice pack. Do not store plants in the freezer or refrigerator. Please do not ship plants on a Friday.
9. Contact SePRO's laboratory prior to shipping and provide an estimated arrival date.
10. 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
11. If you have questions pertaining to sample collection, please contact your SePRO Aquatic Specialist. If you need to order sample bottles, please contact **SePRO** at **(252) 437-3282** or e-mail **srtclab@sepro.com**. Additional COC forms are available on our web site **www.sepro.com/lab**.