# Instructions for Sampling and Submitting Crop Nematode Samples

The accuracy of your nematode assay results depends on the quality of the samples submitted.

Please follow the instructions below.

# **Types of Samples**

Soil can be submitted for either a diagnostic or predictive nematode assay. Diagnostic assays are performed with the purpose of identifying the cause of poor growth in the current crop. Predictive assays determine the risk of next year's crop being impacted by nematodes.

### **Predictive Samples**

Predictive samples should be collected before planting or after harvest. Collect samples when the soil is moist but not waterlogged. If the crop to be planted or agronomic practices vary throughout the field, collect a separate sample from each area. If a field has multiple soil types, take a sample from each soil type.

Samples should be collected in a zig-zag pattern. (See Fig. 1 below). Thoroughly mix the composite sample in a plastic bucket and put a pint of soil in a plastic bag for submission to the nematode lab.

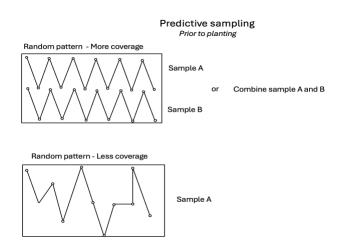


Figure 1. Predictive nematode sampling.

### **Diagnostic Samples**

Collect samples when symptoms indicating a potential nematode problem are observed (e.g. patches of stunting or yellowing in the field).

Samples should be collected from areas with symptomatic plants, but NOT dead or dying plants. Additionally, a second sample from a "good" part of the field should be collected and submitted for comparison. Including samples of root/plant along with the soil is recommended and will aid in accurate diagnosis. (See Fig 2. below).

# Diagnostic samples Collect root and soil

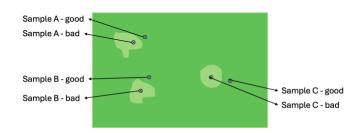


Figure 2. Diagnostic nematode sampling.

# **Preparing Samples**

For both types of samples, place each sample in a labeled plastic bag, seal bag, and **keep sample cool**. Samples may be refrigerated up to one week prior to submission.

See next page for additional instructions and lab contact information.

# **Submitting Samples**

Complete the Nematode Assay Submission Form with as much information as possible to avoid a delay in processing results.

Submit form and samples by mail or in-person to:

Virginia Tech Tidewater AREC Nematode Diagnostic Lab 6321 Holland Road Suffolk, Virginia, 23437

Lab phone: (757) 807-6557

Questions?
Contact Dr. David Langston, Extension Plant
Pathologist by e-mail <a href="mailto:vegpath@vt.edu">vegpath@vt.edu</a>.

Visit Virginia Cooperative Extension: ext.vt.edu

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. Its programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, sex (including pregnancy), gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, ethnicity or national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, or military status, or any other basis protected by law.

2025 SPES-671NP

# **NEMATODE ASSAY SUBMISSION FORM**



SAMPLE INFORMATION											REPORT										
SAMPLED BY*			SAMPLE DATE* TYPE OF ASSAY*					EMAIL COMPLETE REPORT TO													
	Extension A	Agent Grower	Diagnostic Rese				earch														
	Consultant	Other	Predicitve																		
SU	JBMITTER	R INFORMATIO	N*																		
NAME:			PHONE:				EMA	EMAIL:													
AD	DRESS:							UNTY OR GPS COORDINATES:													
GF	ROWER II	NFORMATION (	OPTIONAL	)																	
NA	ME:		PHONE:				] EMA	MAIL:													
ADDRESS:			COUI							NTY OR GPS COORDINATES:											
			Crop Variety (if known)					Plant Appearance (check all that apply)  Above Ground Below Ground									Symptom Distribution				
SAMPLE #	Lab ID (leave blank)	Sample ID*	Current*	Last year*	To be grown next year	Nematicid (Indicate none product used	e or	Normal	-	T	Dead	 	Galls	Rot	Branching	Stunted	Entire field	Localized	Scattered		
1																					
2																					
3																					
4																					
5							ĺ														

\*Indicates required field.

Use additional sheets as needed.

**SUBMIT** 

Virginia Tech Tidewater **SAMPLES TO:** AREC Nematode Diagnostic Lab

> 6321 Holland Road Suffolk, VA 23437

Lab Phone: 757-807-6657

Growers: No charge (up to 10 samples)

Researchers: Fees apply, contact lab.

Please complete form to avoid a delay in processing.