



## 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.

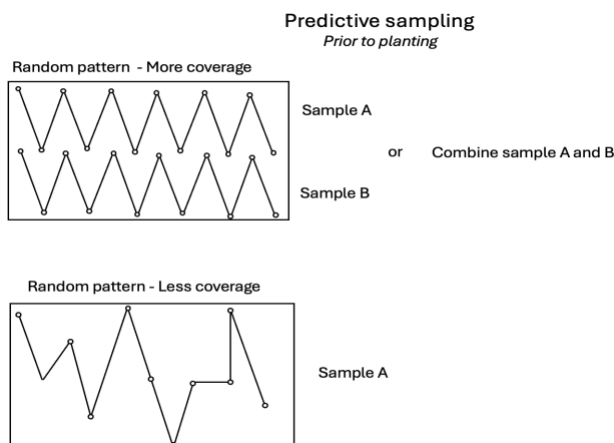


Figure 1. Predictive nematode sampling.

### 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).

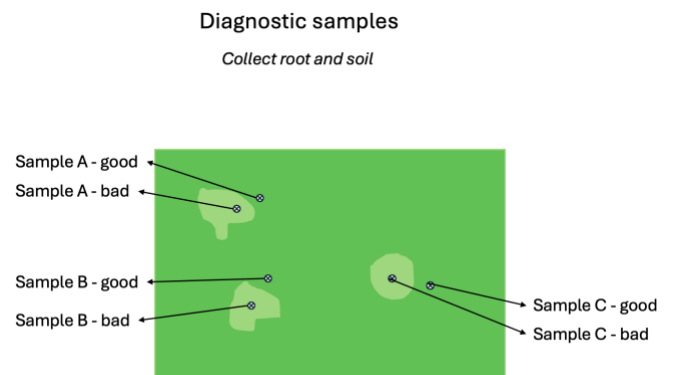


Figure 2. Diagnostic nematode sampling.

### 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 [vegpath@vt.edu](mailto:vegpath@vt.edu).

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