

Sampling, Packaging & Labeling Suggestions For Submitting COST Seed Samples

1. PROPER SAMPLING

To obtain accurate information on a seed lot, the seed should be carefully sampled several times with a probe; so that the submitted lab sample will accurately represent the seed lot's planting value. Skimming seed from the top of a grain bin or grain wagon is not a good seed producer practice. Seed that has been stored with chemicals, placed in unclean buckets or seed which may have stayed in vehicles for extended periods of time, may not be representative of the actual seed lot. If you have further questions on sampling, please contact COST for an extension fact sheet.

2. USING THE CORRECT PACKET

- A. Use the large (7" x 11.5") packet for small grains, corn, soybeans, etc.
- B. Use the small (4" x 6") packet for grasses, clovers, etc.

3. FILLING OUT ALL INFORMATION ON THE FRONT OF THE PACKET

- A. Write the crop and variety name in the given areas. If you do not know the variety name, submit as "VNS" (Variety Not Stated).
- B. Check the "carryover" box for seed harvested prior to the current crop year. This is important since some newly harvested seed may need a prechill to break dormancy to obtain accurate results.
- C. Assign a "lot" number or name to the seed sample. This helps you to keep track of your different samples.
- D. Fill in the address where you want the test results mailed.
- E. Be sure to put a phone number, including area code, where someone may be contacted concerning the sample.

4. FILLING OUT THE TESTS REQUESTED ON THE BACK OF THE PACKET

Check the box(es) of the test(s) you want performed on your sample. If you desire treatment circle the type you want, or fill in the blank space.

5. SENDING THE CORRECT AMOUNT

Send at least a ½ lb. of seed per test requested on small grains, corn, and soybeans. For small seeds such as grasses, clovers, etc., please send at least ¼ lb. of seed.

6. PACKAGING YOUR SAMPLE(S)

To insure that your sample(s) arrives safely with the least amount of damage, place the seeds in the appropriate packet or bag. Do not overfill the sample container. Do not use staples or duct tape to close a sample container. If you are using snap and seal plastic bags, release as much trapped air as possible before sealing. Place the seed sample(s) in a sturdy mailing box and arrange some type of packing material around the sample(s).

Desirable sample containers:

- 1. COST packets (Call for free packets if needed.)
- 2. Double snap & seal plastic bags (One bag placed within another bag.)
- 3. Commercial sealed foil packets for flower, vegetables, etc.

Undesirable sample containers:

- 1. Overfilled containers
- 2. Single snap and seal plastic bags
- 3. Business envelopes
- 4. Brown paper bags
- 5. Checkbook boxes
- 6. Ice cream or cottage cheese containers
- 7. Plastic food storage containers
- 8. Coffee cans

7. SHIPPING YOUR SAMPLE(S)

UPS or FedEx: Central Ohio Seed Testing
6150 Avery Road
Dublin, Ohio 43016

USPS: Central Ohio Seed Testing
P.O. Box 1580
6150 Avery Road
Dublin, OH 43017-6580

Phone: (614) 792-0334