



Pasture collection method

Here is a guide on collecting your pasture sample for testing.

1. Walk through the paddock taking samples randomly as if you were the animal eating the pasture. We are looking for a representative sample of what the animal eats.
2. Remove at grazing height (cattle 5cm above ground). For cattle - wrap the grass around your hand (like a cow's tongue) and pull. For sheep etc - use your thumb and forefinger to nip the grass.
3. Aim to represent the actual species composition, such as if there is a mix of clover and rye and/or other species.
4. Ensure the whole paddock is covered. Fill the bag. You should collect a supermarket bag full.
5. Remove all excess air out of sample bag, this is important as it prevents decomposition and loss of nitrogen and non-structural carbohydrates.
6. If not sending samples straight away store in fridge. Always send fresh pasture or any fresh sample such as silage via courier. Do not rely on regular post.
7. Do not send fresh samples towards the end of the week. Keep in fridge over the weekend and courier on Monday.