



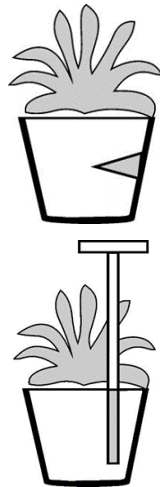
## Water & Media Testing for Nursery and Greenhouse Managers

**Irrigation and source water** should be tested annually for mineral levels, alkalinity and salinity indicators.

**Nutrient solutions and potting media** should be tested periodically through the growing season or whenever problems arise, in order to ensure that target nutrient concentrations are being supplied.

**Standard analysis** is \$5 per N.C. grower sample (\$12 for research; \$25 for out-of-state) and includes nitrate-nitrogen, ammonium-nitrogen, urea, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sulfur, iron, zinc, manganese, copper, boron, sodium, chloride, pH and electrical conductivity/soluble salts. Solution analysis also includes alkalinity, hardness and sodium adsorption ratio.

**Media sampling:** Collect media in a quart size Ziploc bag or other sealable container. For post-plant media, collect media from multiple pots either by hand (small pots) or with a probe (large pots). Media can also be collected by removing the plant from the pot and shaking to remove loose media. Do not include plant roots in the sample.



**Water and solution sampling:** Collect water in a clean plastic container such as a 16 oz soda or water bottle.

*Irrigation and source water*—before sampling, run water 5 to 10 minutes and collect sample from the tap or emitter.

*Nutrient solutions*—collect sample from the emitter, NOT the stock tank.

*Pour-through*—collect leachate from several pots and submit in a clean plastic bottle.



Label each sample with a sample ID and fill out the applicable sample submission form (see website below)

**Turnaround time:** 3-4 days from receipt

### Send samples to:

N.C.D.A. & C.S. Agronomic Services Solutions and Media Section

*Mailing address (USPS):*

1040 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699

*Physical address (UPS, FedEx):*

4300 Reedy Creek Rd, Raleigh NC 27607

Phone: (919) 733-2655

For more detailed information, visit the Media & Solution Analysis page at [www.ncagr.gov/agronomi](http://www.ncagr.gov/agronomi) or contact the regional agronomist for your county.