

Green Cover Seed

Forage Sampling Procedures & Result Quantification

You have taken the time, energy and expense into growing your annual forage cover crop, now here are some simple instructions on how to collect a forage sample to determine dry matter (DM) yield and relative forage quality (RFQ). Supplies Required- Clippers, Measuring Tape, Paper Grocery Bags, 4 flags

Steps

- 1) **Site Selection-** Select an area that's an average representative of your mixture. Once the general area is selected, pitch an object randomly at least 10' in any direction. That object marks the middle of your sampling location. This step will help take bias out of your sampling site.
- 2) **Define Sample Location** - Measure a 3'X3' square, with the thrown object as the center point. This will define the sample area and help us determine DM production per acre.
- 3) **Collect Forage Sample-** Now use your clippers or knife to collect all above ground biomass production desired. Depending on your management goals for the end use of your cover, you could collect the biomass at variable heights. Collect only your cover crops above-ground biomass to determine what was produced. From there we can estimate how effective you will be at utilizing that biomass based on your management goals. If you are haying or chopping, collect all biomass above cutter bar height. Fill your paper bag with the sample (paper allows the sample to breath and slows degradation of the sample as opposed to a plastic bag).
- 4) **Sample Handling-** Now the collected sample can be processed. You can immediately ship the sample to the lab only if it can be mailed and processed before the end of the work week. Otherwise we suggest you take the sample to stable location out of the elements, where it won't get contaminated, allowing it to air dry for a few days. This will greatly reduce the moisture content of the sample, helping preserve the biomass and reduce shipping costs.
- 5) **Specify Sample Information-** It's important when sending a sample to a lab that you print their sample submission form or at least give all your contact and billing information. You can utilize the submission sheet below if your sending the sample to Ward Labs. Otherwise, on your sample you need to specify that you want to determine...
 - a. Total DM weight of the **ENTIRE** sample in pounds! Specify that the sample was taken from a 3'x3' square and you would like to know total pounds per acre.
 - i. $43,560 \text{ ft}^2 = \text{acre}$: Simply take $4840 \times \#/\text{DM}(\text{from your sample}) = \text{your DM \#/A}$
 - b. Relative Forage Quality Test (RFQ). RFQ provides a useful index score that is utilized to compare forages based of total digestible nutrients (TDN) and dry matter intake (DMI).
- 6) **Analyzing Results-** To learn more about your forage analysis results please check out our website for a full detailed description and factor relevance indicators.

Please feel free to contact us to see if you qualify for a free forage quantity/quality test compliments of Green Cover Seed. We have a working relationship with Ward Lab so they fully understand the sampling procedures we have recommended. They will be able to provide you with a precious and timely analysis.

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CUSTOMER INFORMATION	
Customer name:	
Phone:	Email:
Address:	
City, State:	ZIP Code:

Ship your Sample to:



This sample was collected in accordance to Green Cover Seed's recommendations.

We would like your lab to...

Calculate the total dry matter (DM) weight of this **ENTIRE** sample. This sample was collected from a 3'x3' ft² area or Other _____ area. I would like to determine the total pounds per acre based on this samples DM weight.

Also, run a NIR (NEAR INFRARED REFLECTANCE) test for RFQ to determine forage quality.

Any other analysis I would like done: _____

Please email the results to the email address above. If no email is listed then mail the results to address provided.



If qualified for a free forage analysis compliment of green cover seed, the bottom portion of this sheet will need to be signed and dated within a two-month period of sample submission by either Keith Berns, Dale Strickler, Brett Peshek or Colten Catterton. One free sample per customer per year if qualified.

If all requirements are met, please email the results to the customer and
Colten@greencoverseed.com.

Employee Signature: _____ Date: _____