



1. Cannabis Virus and Disease Testing (Fresh Cannabis)

1.1 General

- Symptomatic samples: take samples from symptomatic tissues such as leaves or stems where spot, mottle or other symptoms are present.
- Asymptomatic samples: choose both young leaves (newest fully developed) and old leaves. Collect up to 10 leaves per samples.
- Tissue-culture plants should be at least two inches high.
- The sample volume or numbers of seeds, clones is determined according to the total volume of the crop to be tested.
- Samples should be collected just before they are to be shipped. If you need to take samples a day before you ship, please store the samples in a refrigerator (at 4 °C).

1.2 Sample Collection

- For each sample, collect at least five young, mature fan leaves with petioles (leaf stems) from different parts of the plant. The lab needs a minimum of **2 grams** of material per sample to perform the tests.
- If you suspect virus symptoms are present, gather samples from affected and adjacent-to-affected plants.
- Wrap leaves in paper towel before putting them in a plastic bag. Do not add moisture to the sample.
- If there are no symptoms of disease, gather a random sample of whole fan leaves using a uniform pattern through the cannabis yard, such as a “W” or “X” pattern.
- Clearly label each bag with indelible ink making sure your information on the sample bags corresponds to the information on the Cannabis Chain of Custody (Submission Form).

1.3 Shipping

- Complete the Cannabis Chain of Custody (Submission Form) and enclose with samples.
- In warmer months, it may be preferable to pack fresh plant tissue in a cooler with ice packs to maintain sample integrity during transit.
- For moist samples, enclose the Cannabis Chain of Custody (Submission Form) form in a separate plastic bag.
- Do not ship samples on Fridays or days preceding holidays. Our laboratory is closed on weekends and statutory holidays. Delivery delay may adversely affect sample integrity.
- Send samples by courier using next day delivery or hand deliver.
- Clients are responsible for tracking the shipment status during transit to the lab. AFL is not responsible or liable for packages lost in transit.
- We suggest odour-proof, tamper-proof and leak-proof inner packaging. Outer packaging should not have any markings or advertising that indicates the contents of your package. For specific courier regulations, please contact them or refer to their websites.

2. Cannabis Nutrient Package (Fresh Cannabis)

2.1 General

Samples are analysed as received. When collecting a sample, ensure that it is appropriate for the analysis and the required results.

2.2 Sample Collection

- Select the most recently, fully developed fan leaves from the current year's growth and submit approximately **50 grams** of fresh plant tissue.
- If you are troubleshooting a specific problem situation, sample your plants individually and take leaves from the affected portion(s) of the individual plant. If you are assessing the general nutrient condition of your cannabis crop, select a representative sample of your crop by selecting around 25 to 30 leaves from about 5 to 10 plants.
- If you overhead water or apply foliar micronutrients, gently wash your leaves in distilled water for approximately 20 seconds and then dry with paper towels.
- Enclose samples in a paper bag or manilla envelope and clearly label each sample container with indelible ink, matching your information on the sample container corresponds to the information on the Cannabis Chain of Custody (Submission Form).
- Samples should be collected just before they are to be shipped. If you need to take samples a day before you ship, please air-dry or store your samples in a refrigerator (at 4 °C).

2.3 Shipping

- Complete the Cannabis Chain of Custody (Submission Form) and enclose with samples.
- In warmer months, it may be preferable to pack fresh plant tissue in a cooler with ice packs to maintain sample integrity during transit.
- For moist samples, enclose the sample submission form in a separate plastic bag.
- Do not ship samples on Fridays or days preceding holidays. Our laboratory is closed on weekends and statutory holidays. Delivery delay may adversely affect sample integrity.
- Send samples by courier using next day delivery or hand deliver.
- Clients are responsible for tracking the shipment status during transit to the lab. AFL is not responsible or liable for packages lost in transit.

Cannabis Sampling and Shipping Guidelines

- We suggest odour-proof, tamper-proof and leak-proof inner packaging. Outer packaging should not have any markings or advertising that indicates the contents of your package. For specific courier regulations, please contact them or refer to their websites.

3. Health Canada Regulatory Testing (Dried Cannabis)

3.1 General

- Samples are analysed as received. When collecting a sample, ensure that it is appropriate for the analysis and the required results. That means if the sample contains stems and seeds, it will be included as part of the sample.

3.2 Sample Collection

Sample Size Requirements for Dried Flower:

| Test Method | Minimum Sample Size |
|--|---|
| | Dried Flower (g) |
| Full Health Canada Panel (potency, pesticides, heavy metals, microbial analysis, aflatoxins, foreign matter) | 44 g (split packages into 2; 24 g for microbial & 20 g for everything else) |
| Potency | 1 |
| Pesticides (HC Mandatory 96) | 1 |
| Regulated Heavy Metals | 5 |
| Microbial Analysis Panel | 24 |
| Aflatoxins (B1 & Total (B1 + B2 + G1 + G2)) | 5 |
| Ochratoxin A (export only) | 5 |

For the Full Health Canada Panel, please submit your submission in 2 sample portions. One sample portion of **24 g for microbial testing only** and a second sample portion of **20 g for all other tests**. Separate sample portions reduce the number of times a sample is handled, ensuring sample integrity.

3.3 Shipping

- Enclose samples individually in retail packaging or leak-proof containers that uphold sample integrity and are able to withstand shipping. Containers should be clean and/or sterile to ensure no prior contamination.
- Please label your sample containers using indelible ink, making sure your information on the sample containers corresponds to the information on the Cannabis Chain of Custody (Submission Form).
- We suggest creating a physical barrier between the packaged sample and outer box with material such as bubble wrap or newspaper.
- Complete the Cannabis Chain of Custody (Submission Form) clearly stating the analysis requested and enclose with samples. Please provide any important and/or critical information about your sample(s) including type, end use, history, or handling hazards on the submission form. Cannabis Chain of Custody Submission forms will be sent with quotations.
- For moist samples, enclose the sample submission form in a separate plastic bag.
- Samples can be sent to the laboratory by courier using next day delivery, or they can be hand-delivered between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday.
- Do not ship samples on Fridays or days preceding holidays. Our laboratory is closed on weekends and statutory holidays. Delivery delay may adversely affect sample integrity.



LABORATORY SERVICES



Cannabis Sampling and Shipping Guidelines

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- We suggest odour-proof, tamper-proof and leak-proof inner packaging. Outer packaging should not have any markings or advertising that indicates the contents of your package. For specific courier regulations, please contact them or refer to their websites.