

# Gender Test Leaf Collection Procedure

## Collection guidelines and pricing for gender analysis.

**IMPORTANT! THIS PROCEDURE REQUIRES, FOR EACH SAMPLE, THE USE OF NEW UNCONTAMINATED COLLECTION MATERIALS (BAG, VIAL, ENVELOPE). IF USING TOOLS, THEY MUST BE STERILIZED WITH A 10% BLEACH SOLUTION BEFORE EACH CUT!**

**DO NOT SUBSTITUTE ALCOHOL FOR BLEACH!** Alcohol may be used to remove oily or resinous material from tools prior to sterilization, **BUT IT DOES NOT DESTROY CONTAMINATING DNA!!!**

**Please note: Leaves sprayed with foliar fertilizer, oil, nutrients, anti microbial agents, etc. MUST be thoroughly washed with water at least 72 hours prior to collecting leaves for submission. If any residue is detected on the leaves and the results are inconclusive, the test will be repeated at the expense of the customer.**

Avoiding cross contamination between samples is VERY IMPORTANT! qPCR technology is extremely sensitive, able to detect and amplify a single copy of the target DNA sequence. Any tools that will touch the samples, i.e. scissors, razors, etc. MUST be treated with a 10% BLEACH solution to destroy contaminating DNA. If possible, try to avoid actually touching the leaves being collected for samples. If touching the sample is unavoidable, use disposable gloves and change gloves between handling each sample. The preferred sample size is one fresh leaf (results may be **inconclusive** if the submitted leaf sample is excessively dry, degraded, or wilted; requiring a retest at the customers expense). The minimum sample size needed is about the size of a nickel.

1. First, if there are multiple plants and they are in close proximity to one another, spray the plants heavily with water to wash any contaminating DNA from neighboring plants and allow them to dry. Make sure your plants are uniquely identified (strain/seed/plant #, etc.) and labeled before you start collecting leaves.
2. Label a collection container with identifying information of the plant to be sampled.
3. Open and hold the collection container under or around the leaf sample to be collected.
  - a. If using a bag or envelope, you can grasp the leaf and pull/pinch it away from the plant and seal the bag/envelope. Be careful not to puncture the bag with fingernails doing so could contaminate the sample.
  - b. If using scissors (or other cutting tool), rinse them in clean water, soak them in a 10% bleach solution for one minute, and then rinse them in more clean water. Cut the sample from the plant, dropping it into the bag/vial without touching it, then seal the bag/vial.
4. If collecting multiple samples, change gloves, get a new bag/envelope/vial, and then repeat Steps 2 – 3b for each plant.
5. Return samples to **The Spott 550 E. Cork St. Kalamazoo, MI 49001** in person. If you have any questions about sample collection, please call 269-459-6462.

### Pricing for plant sex testing

Number of Samples	Price Per Sample
1 - 8	\$25.00
9 - 94	\$20.00
95 +	\$15.00