

Broccoli Sampling & Growth Stages

Timing: Begin sampling at stage 2.1 or 2.2 (vegetative) and continue until 30%-50% of the expected head size is reached (stage 4.3) at fortnightly intervals. If not fortnightly, sample a minimum of 3 times between stage 2.2 and 4.3.

Sample volume: 20 petioles from 20 plants in the early stages; reduce the sample size to a minimum 15 as the plant matures.

Sampling: Collect 1 leaf per plant from a representative area of the crop. Select the youngest fully expanded leaf (YFEL), usually the tallest leaf. Strip the leaf matter away leaving the petiole and midrib for analysis. Return to the same sampling area for subsequent samples

Primary Stage	Secondary Stage	Description	Comments
			<i>Leaf development (main shoot)</i>
	1.5	Early establishment	5th true leaf unfolded.
2			<i>Leaf expansion</i>
	2.1	Vegetative	10% of final frame size.
	2.2		20% of final frame size.
	2.4	Head initiation (not visible)	40% of final frame size (week 5/6 or 7 depending on time of year) differentiation of generative tissue (for head)
4			<i>Head development</i>
	4.1	Early head	Buttoning, head just visible
	4.3		30% of the expected head diameter reached.
	4.5	Mid head	50% of the expected head diameter reached.
	4.7	Late head	70% of the expected head diameter reached.
	4.8		80% of the expected head diameter reached.
	4.9	Harvest	Typical size and form reached; head tightly closed.

Growth Stage numbering system is in accordance to the extended BBCH, a uniform coding of phenologically similar growth stages for all plant species

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