

Capsicum Sampling & Growth Stages

Timing: Begin sampling at stage 2 (vegetative) and monitor every 10-14 days until stage 7 or as required

Sample volume: 50 petioles (if plants are very small, more than 50 petioles may have to be collected)

Sampling: Collect 1 leaf or shoot per plant, select the youngest fully expanded leaf (YFEL), usually the fourth leaf from the top, from actively growing plants. If leaves are small, collect young side shoots. Return to the same representative area for subsequent samples

Primary Stage	Secondary Stage	Description	Comments
			<i>Leaf Development</i>
1	1.3	Establishment	3 true leaves unfolded
	1.5		5 true leaves unfolded
	1.9		9 or more true leaves unfolded
			<i>Formation of shoots</i>
2	2.1	Vegetative growth	First vegetative side shoots visible. (Vegetative side shoots are counted from cotyledon node.)
	2.3		3 vegetative side shoots visible.
	2.7		7 or more vegetative side shoots visible.
			<i>Inflorescence emergence</i>
5	5.1	Bud development	First flush of floral buds visible
	5.9		Petals of first buds visible, floral buds still closed
			<i>Flowering</i>
6	6.3	Flower development	30% of first flowers open
	6.7		70% of first flowers open
			<i>Development of fruit</i>
7	7.3	Fruit reaching final size	First set fruit is 30% of final size
	7.5		First set fruit is 50% of final size
	7.7		First set fruit 70% of final size
			<i>Fruit maturity</i>
8	8.1	Harvest	First set of fully mature fruit are harvested
	8.2		Second harvest
	8.4		Fourth harvest
	8.9		Harvest completed

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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