

Lettuce Sampling & Growth Stages

Timing: Begin sampling at stage 1.8, follow with a second sample at stage 4.1, and a final sample at 4.5 (mid heart development) Sample more frequently, if imbalances have to be corrected.

Sample volume: 20 leaves (more if the plants are small)

Sampling: Remove the youngest fully expanded leaf (YFEL), usually the leaf wrapping the head (or tallest leaf). Retain the whole leaf for analysis. If mailing the sample, remove the leaf blade, retaining the petiole and midrib for analysis. Return to the same representative sampling area for subsequent samples.

Primary Stage	Secondary Stage	Description	Comments
1			<i>Leaf Development (main shoot)</i>
	1.5	Vegetative growth	5th true leaf unfolded.
	1.8		8th true leaf unfolded.
4			<i>Development of Harvestable Vegetative Plant Part</i>
	4.1	Early heart development	Hearts begin to form: the two youngest leaves do not unfold.
	4.2		20% of the expected heart size reached.
	4.5	Mid heart development	50% of the expected heart size reached.
	4.7	Pre harvest	70% of the expected heart size reached.
	4.9	Peak harvest	Typical size, form and firmness reached.

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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