

# Onion

## Sampling & Growth Stages

**Timing:** Begin sampling at stage 1.3 (3-4 leaf) and continue at fortnightly intervals through to stage 4.5

**Sample volume:** 20-50 plants (more plants while small)

**Sampling:** Retain whole young plants. For older plants remove the tips of leaves and bulb, retaining 20cm of plant above the bulb. Return to the same representative area for subsequent samples

Primary Stage	Secondary Stage	Description	Comments
1		<i>Leaf development</i>	
	1.3	3-4 leaf	3rd leaf (>3cm) clearly visible
	1.4		4th leaf (>3cm) clearly visible
4		<i>Development of Bulbs</i>	
	4.1	Bulbing	Leaf bases begin to thicken or expand
	4.3		30% of the expected bulb diameter reached
	4.5		50% of the expected bulb diameter reached
	4.7		Bolting begins; in 10% of the plants leaves bend over
	4.8		Leaves bend over in 50% of plants
	4.9		Leaves dead, bulb top dry; dormancy

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

© 2008 AgVita Analytical Pty Ltd., PO Box 188, Devonport TAS 7310  
 Ph: 03-6420 9600, Fax 03-6427 0230, info@agvita.com.au, www.agvita.com.au