

Spinach Sampling & Growth Stages

Timing: Begin sampling at stage 1.9 and continue fortnightly to stage 4.5

Sample volume: 40 leaves

Sampling: Collect the Youngest Fully Expanded Leaf (YFEL) including petiole (stalk) from 40 plants. Remove leaf blade keeping petiole and midrib for analysis. Return to the same sampling area for subsequent samples.

Primary Stage	Secondary Stage	Description	Comments
1			<i>Leaf development (main shoot)</i>
	1.2		2 or more true leaves unfolded
	1.5		5 or more true leaves unfolded
3			<i>Vegetative growth</i>
	3.3		Main shoot has reached 30% of the expected height typical for the variety
	3.7		Main shoot has reached 70% of the expected height typical for the variety
	3.9		Main shoot has reached the height typical for the variety
4			<i>Development of harvestable vegetative plant part</i>
	4.1		10% of the leaf mass typical for the variety reached
	4.3		30% of the leaf mass typical for the variety reached
	4.5		50% of the leaf mass typical for the variety reached
	4.7		70% of the leaf mass typical for the variety reached
	4.9		Typical leaf mass 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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