

Stone Fruit Sampling & Growth Stages

Peach, Plum, Nectarine, Cherry

Timing: Begin sampling at stage 7.2 (shuck fall). A Second sample should be taken at stone hardening (7.5). Nutrition should be monitored during fruit growth by taking three samples at equal weeks apart. A Final sample should be taken at harvest to determine post harvest applications.

Sample volume: 40 shoot tips, each 10cm long.

Sampling: Collect 10 cm of new shoot tips from current season's growth at mid crown height (or shoulder height for large trees); sample from the same trees for subsequent sampling.

Fruit Sampling: Select fruitlets from around the whole tree during fruit development (growth stages 7.5 – 8.1) from representative trees. It is recommended to sample fruit at the same time as shoots. A fruit sample just before harvest can give information about post harvest performance, especially if soluble solid (brix) levels are measured as well as nutrients.

Primary stage	Secondary stage	Description	Comments
5			<i>Inflorescence emergence</i>
	5.1		Inflorescence buds swelling: buds closed, light brown scales visible.
	5.3		Bud burst: scales separated, light green bud sections visible.
	5.4		Inflorescence, enclosed by light green scales, (not all cultivars).
	5.7		Sepals open: petal tips visible, single flowers with white or pink petals (closed).
	5.9		Most flowers with petals forming a hollow ball (popcorn).
6			<i>Flowering, concurrent with leaf and shoot development</i>
	6.1		Beginning of flowering: 10% of flowers open.
	6.5		Full flowering: 50% of flowers open, first petals falling.
	6.7		Flowers fading: majority of petals fallen, ovary growing. First leaves unfolded, axis of developing shoot visible.
7			<i>Fruit development</i>
	7.2	Shuck fall	All petals fallen, end of flowering, First leaves fully expanded, shoots > 10cm long.
	7.5	Stone hardening	Fruit about half final size. Fruit growth interrupted, stone becomes hard (cannot be easily cut).
	7.6		Fruit about 60% of final size.
	7.7		Fruit about 70% of final size.
	7.8		Fruit about 80% of final size.
8			<i>Maturing of fruit</i>
	8.1	Harvest	Fruit at full size, beginning of fruit coloring.
	8.5		Coloring advanced.
	8.9		Fruit ripe for harvest.
9			<i>Beginning of dormancy</i>
	9.1		Shoot growth completed: foliage still fully green.
	9.3		Beginning of leaf fall.
	9.9		All leaves fallen.

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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