

Strawberry Sampling & Growth Stages

Timing: Begin sampling at stage 1.9 (New Leaves) and continue through to stage 8.7 (Harvest)

Sample volume: Minimum of 50 petioles (more for small plants)

Sampling: Select the youngest fully expanded leaves (YFEL) from 50 plants

from a representative portion of the crop. Discard the leaves, retain the leaf stalk (= petiole). Return to the same sampling area for subsequent analysis

Berry Sampling: Sample primary fruit from the same plant used for petiole sampling

Primary Stage	Secondary Stage	Description	Comments
1			<i>Leaf Development</i>
	1.5	New Leaves	5 or more leaves emerged from the crown of the plant
	1.7		7 or more leaves emerged from the crown of the plant
	1.9		9 or more leaves emerged from the crown of the plant
5			<i>Inflorescence Emergence</i>
	5.3	Flower Development	The crown of the plant swells as flower clusters or trusses grow
	5.5		Flower trusses emerge from the crown and are clearly visible
	5.9		White bud. Flower petals are visible in the flower clusters
6			<i>Flowering</i>
	6.1	Flowering	Beginning of flowering: First (primary) flowers in each flower cluster begin to open
	6.5		50% Bloom: All primary and many of the secondary blooms open
	6.7		Full Bloom: primary, secondary and many tertiary flowers open
	6.9		Flowers fading: majority of petals fallen
7			<i>Development of Fruit</i>
	7.1	Fruit Set	Receptacle protruding from sepal whorl
	7.3		Seeds clearly visible on receptacle tissue
	7.5		The fruit from the primary bloom are thimble size
8			<i>Maturity of Fruit</i>
	8.1	Fruit Ripening	Beginning of ripening: most fruits white in colour
	8.5		First, (large) fruits have cultivar-specific colour
	8.7	Harvest	Main harvest
	8.9		Second harvest

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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