



General sampling guidelines

In order to achieve a representative water sample, a composite sample made up of 5-10 sub samples needs to be taken. The sampling method will depend on the source of water to be analysed.

Bore water

Water should not be collected until after the bore has pumped for a period of one to two hours or until the water has cleared up, with sub samples taken at 5 minute intervals.

Sample size: 500mls.

Dam water

Sample from different positions at the side of the dam where the water is being drawn from. It may be necessary to collect several composite samples during the season to correlate results to evaporation and dilution.

Sample size: 500mls.

Streams

Water needs to be sampled from different locations in the main stream body. If it is used for irrigation, sample near the suction area.

Sample size: 500mls.

Waste water

A composite sample is recommended, which consists of numerous individual discrete samples taken at regular intervals over a period of time, e.g. every 1-4 hours over a 24 hour period. It is recommended to check local guidelines.

Sample size: 500mls.

Hydroponic

Depending on the system, any or all of the supply water, supply nutrient solution and recycled water may be sampled. It is recommended to take a composite sample over a period of 6-12 hours, e.g. every 2 hours, while the system is operating.

Sample size: 300mls.

Sampling procedure

- ⇒ When using bottles other than those supplied by IK Caldwell, clean 50mL drink bottles are suitable. Ensure that they have a watertight lid and are durable to avoid damage in transit. Triple rinsing the bottle will ensure it is clean before sampling. Dispose of the rinse water away from the sampling site.
- ⇒ To fill the bottle, sub sample with a clean beaker, filling the bottle to the top. Samples should be kept cool, and away from direct light. Samples should reach the laboratory in the same condition they were in at sampling and should not be stored for extended periods.
- ⇒ Bottles need to be identified with a completed sample label. Wrap the bottles in bubble wrap or newspaper to protect them during postage.
- ⇒ Wear gloves when sampling.
- ⇒ Send all samples as soon as possible using **express post**.

These are general guidelines only. Growers may need to refer to local government, council, industry body or accreditation body for further guidance and clarification