

## **IFAS Analytical Services Laboratories**

### **Analytical Research Laboratory**

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**ARL GOAL:** Our primary goal at the ARL is to provide IFAS researchers with high quality analyses. Additionally, strive to provide these services in a friendly and timely manner at a modest fee. However, quality, timeliness, and cost of analyses are all adversely affected when samples are submitted improperly to the ARL.

**SAMPLE PREPARATION:** You can help by ensuring that all samples are correctly prepared and labeled prior to their arrival at the ARL.

### **TISSUE ANALYSIS CHECKLIST – Read carefully before submitting samples to the ARL**

1. Samples can be scheduled with the ARL prior to delivery. An email will be sent to you with your set number and assigned appointment date listed. Bring a copy of this email with your samples. Unscheduled samples will be assigned set numbers after arrival. You will be notified of the set number within one business day after sample submission.
2. Please provide the ARL with your best estimate of the number of samples you would like to submit. It is best to over-estimate rather than under-estimate on this number. If you have more samples than are indicated on your Sample Analysis Request Form, a new set will have to be generated for the extra samples.
3. The same parameters must be requested for all samples within a set.
4. The ARL is using direct invoicing of UF/IFAS research account numbers for payment of services. Please expect to budget \$2.00 per requested analyte/element and \$2.00/digestion/sample. Combustion analyses (TN, TC) are \$10/parameter. Please contact the ARL with any questions concerning unusual matrices or special analyses.
5. Tissue samples should be dried and ground prior to arrival at the lab. Depending on the analyses requested, the average sample size required is about 1-2 gram of prepared tissue and the mesh size of the ground tissue will determine the reproducibility of the sample (i.e., the finer the grind, the more reproducible). Samples should be submitted in a sample bag or a 20 mL scintillation vial (Fisher 0333723C) with the sample identification printed clearly on the SIDE of each bag/vial. Samples must be numbered sequentially (no letters or symbols). Labeling the vial caps only is unacceptable.
6. If possible, please estimate the concentration range you expect your samples to contain and note that range to the side of the analyses you select. The ARL website lists the linear working ranges for the various methods used by the ARL.
7. Please critically evaluate your report as soon as possible after receipt. The ARL holds analyzed samples for at least 4 weeks after the final report is mailed to the researcher. Samples will be discarded after that date unless otherwise instructed. The completed hard-copy data package will be maintained on file for 3 years.

**Please note:** Many IFAS researchers have already incorporated the above requests with little or no disruption to their sample preparation/submission program. Unfortunately, additional charges, lost productivity and the return of unanalyzed samples are all potential consequences of improperly prepared samples. Please do not hesitate to contact the ARL if you are unclear about any of the above instructions, or if you have any other questions or comments.