



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Division of Plant Industry



NICOLE "NIKKI" FRIED  
COMMISSIONER

Section 581.217, F.S., 5B-57.014(2), F.A.C.  
Post Office Box 147100, Gainesville, FL 32614-7100 / (352)395-4700

## PRE-HARVEST SAMPLING MANUAL

Under the authority of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, the Florida legislature has created a program to regulate the cultivation of Hemp. Pursuant to section 581.217, Florida Statutes, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services ("Department") is charged with the responsibility to manage that program.

Among other requirements, pre-harvest samples from each Lot must be collected by the Department or its agent to ensure that the Total delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol does not exceed 0.3% on a dry weight basis. This manual outlines the sample collection procedures that must be followed prior to harvest.

### I. Definitions.

1. "Hemp" means the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of that plant, including the seeds thereof, and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers thereof, whether growing or not, that has a Total delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration that does not exceed 0.3 percent on a dry-weight basis.
2. "Lot" means a contiguous area in a field, greenhouse, or indoor growing structure used for cultivation of the same variety or strain of Hemp.
3. "Hemp Microgreens" means immature hemp seedlings germinated from seed for human consumption that are cut-off above the soil or substrate line and harvested prior to flowering and not more than 14 days after germination. Hemp microgreens are typically between two (2) and three (3) inches in height, but not taller than five (5) inches.
4. "Hemp Greens" means hemp leaves from immature plants germinated from seed and the plants are no more than ten (10) inches tall and are not flowering.

### II. Preparation/Supplies

Disposable gloves  
Sheers or single use scalpel  
Alcohol wipes  
Paper bags  
Tamper resistant tape  
Ruler or measuring tape  
Stapler  
Cannabis Sample Submission Form, FDACS-08114, Rev. 04/21

### III. Collection Protocols.

#### A. Standard Sampling Protocols:

1. No earlier than thirty (30) days prior to the harvest date, the Department or its agent shall collect hemp clippings from each Lot to be harvested according to the table in #5 below for Total delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration.

2. Assemble all necessary forms, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), supplies and sampling equipment. Make sure sampling equipment is clean, dry, and in good working condition.
3. Identify Lot of Hemp to be sampled.
4. For each Lot over 1 acre in size, divide the Lot into sections to collect the required number of samples based on acreage. Avoid collecting samples from the outer edges of the Lot.
5. Refer to the table below for the total clippings required from each Lot sample. The total clippings required below must be taken evenly among the four quadrants<sup>1</sup>:

| Lot size in harvested acres | Total number of plant clippings for each representative sample |
|-----------------------------|--|
| < 1 acre                    | 1 clipping (minimum)   |
| 1 acre or more              | 1 clipping per acre (minimum)                                  |

6. Each plant clipping must be five to eight (5 to 8) inches long and must be taken from the top of the plant's primary or main stem, including leaves and flowers, the terminal flower at the end of the stem, and the central cola that could develop into flowers at the top of the plant. Do not remove any stalks, stems, flowers, seeds, or leaves from the clipping.
7. Place the plant clippings collected from the Lot into a paper bag. This is the representative sample.
8. Staple a completed **Cannabis Sample Submission Form, FDACS-08114, Rev. 04/21**, to the paper bag containing the representative sample.
9. Seal the paper bag with tamper resistant tape.
10. Each representative sample with the attached **Cannabis Sample Submission Form, FDACS-08114, Rev. 04/21**, must be placed in the mail or delivered to lab for analysis within one business day of collection. Please note, Designated laboratories will not accept damaged or torn bags and it is recommended that paper bags be shipped in boxes or padded envelopes.
11. Use single use/disposable equipment or thoroughly clean sampling equipment and change disposable gloves after taking each representative sample collection.

#### B. Performance-Based Sampling Protocols:

1. These sampling protocols may be utilized for the production and harvest of hemp microgreens or hemp greens.
2. Hemp that has not matured to flowering stage may be approved for harvest without the required Lot sampling if the following conditions are met:
  - a. The hemp microgreens plant growth does not exceed 14 days prior to harvest.
  - b. The hemp greens may be harvested from plants that are no more than ten (10) inches tall and are not flowering.
  - c. The licensee previously cultivated and tested the same variety of hemp utilizing the Standard Sampling Protocols listed in Section III. A above at a cultivation location approved on its application.
  - d. A request to utilize performance based sampling protocols must be submitted in writing to [DPIHemp@FDACS.gov](mailto:DPIHemp@FDACS.gov) with copy of the certificate of analysis showing that the hemp variety or strain microgreens or hemp greens harvest sample has an Acceptable THC level.
3. Performance based sampling protocols must be approved for each variety or strain of hemp.