

California Department of Food and Agriculture  
Sampling Guidelines Summary

Field Sampling: Routine or contract samples.

To determine overall field residues, collect samples to be as representative of the field as possible. Samples shall be taken from five sites (five-point sample) of the field approximately 25-100 feet in from the border, depending on field size or configuration. Samples shall be taken in each corner and one from the middle of the field. In irregular shaped fields, sample should be taken an equal distance apart to represent the entire field or site.

Field Sampling: Enforcement sample (to determine drift, tank contamination).

Samples shall be taken from nine sites (nine-point sample) of the field, approximately 25-100 feet in from corners and borders, depending on field size or configuration. Samples shall be taken in from each corner, the middle of each side, and one from the center of the field. In irregular shaped fields, samples should be taken an equal distance apart to represent the entire field or site.

Additional samples should be taken from any adjoining fields suspected of being the source of drift.

Commodities in Containers:

Lot* Size (Total number of containers identifiable as belonging to one grower)	Sample Size (Subsamples) (Number of containers from which samples are to be taken)
1 to 5	All
6 to 110	5
111 to 300	10
301 to 500	15
501 to 800	20
801 and over	25

\* A lot is the total number of cases of a single product from a single field, or that which is packed under one brand name and stacked, stored, or displayed in a single group in a single location.

As a general rule, a minimum of one-pound of commodity is sufficient per sample, per specific analysis, per screen requested.

Samples should be cooled and shipped on wet ice, if there will be a delay between sampling and analyses.