



PLANT HEALTH LAB

HELPING PROTECT NOVA SCOTIA VINEYARDS

A NEW SERVICE FOR NOVA SCOTIA'S WINE INDUSTRY

We are passionate about plant health. You take care in the management of your vineyard to ensure the best possible harvest. Having up-to-date information on the virus status of your grapevines is a factor in that success.

Grapevine viruses are a growing concern for producers around the world due to negative impacts on yield and fruit quality. Perennia's Plant Health Lab is a new plant diagnostic laboratory located in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley, offering a local option for your testing needs.

We specialize in grapevine virus detection by RT-PCR (RNA viruses) and PCR (DNA viruses), and support research-related initiatives to better understand the effect of viruses on Nova Scotia grape varieties. During 2018-19, we developed a baseline virus level by testing new plantings from vineyards under the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture's Vineyard Development and Expansion Program.

OVERVIEW

Our team will conduct a systematic sampling procedure in a requested field. Following a specific protocol, it's designed to provide the highest level of confidence in virus detection.

The Plant Health Lab currently tests grapevine leaf samples for 5 viruses:

- *Grapevine Leafroll-Associated Virus 1*
- *Grapevine Leafroll-Associated Virus 2*
- *Grapevine Leafroll-Associated Virus 3*
- *Grapevine Red Blotch Virus*
- *Grapevine Pinot Gris Virus*

The optimal sampling time is late summer to early fall (mid-August to mid-October). Leaves should not be submitted for virus testing once they've started senescing. Samples should only consist of leaves from a single variety.

INDIVIDUAL VINE SAMPLES

When you want a particular grapevine tested, we can tell you whether a specific vine is positive or negative for a virus (or groups of viruses). It's important to note that results can't be extrapolated beyond the single plant.

COMPOSITE SAMPLES

A composite sample is where grapevine groupings are tested together in a pooled sample to determine the extent of infection in a varietal block. Multiple composite samples are taken across a varietal block to give you an idea of the extent of virus infection in a block.

PRICES

Per sample costs for virus testing are:

- **\$25/sample** for 1 virus
- **\$15/sample** for each additional virus

You can send us samples or we can visit your vineyard to collect samples on your behalf. This must be arranged at least one week in advance to ensure staff availability. There is a fee for this service. Our staff will provide you with a quote, and will fully discuss it with you before you sign off and samples are collected.

ABOUT US

Perennia is comprised of a multidisciplinary specialist team that can assist you in diagnosing in-field issues. The Plant Health Lab complements the team in providing definitive, reliable and consistent results to our clients on grapevine viruses.

At this time, we provide virus testing in grapevines only, but intend to expand into other crops over time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION (INCLUDING TIPS FOR TAKING GRAPEVINE SAMPLES) CONTACT:

Plant Health Lab

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