

# GenTEST\* Aquatic Plant Genetics Assessment

## Procedures for Hydrilla Tissue Collection

1. For each GenTEST sampling location within a waterbody, collect 1 - 3 hydrilla stem sections.
  - a) Hydrilla stem sections should be 2 - 4 inches in length with a minimum of one intact whorl of leaflets per stem section.
  - b) Sampled tissue should have good integrity (i.e., not be soft, decaying, or otherwise in obviously poor structural condition).
  - c) Active growing tissue (i.e., apical or other growing tip) is not required.
  - d) Collected tissue can show bleaching stress from an in-progress Sonar treatment if overall tissue integrity is good.
  - e) If tissue condition at a specific sampling location is considered questionable by the sampler, please note that condition on chain of custody form.
  - f) If all hydrilla tissue at a lake site is considered questionable, please consult with a SePRO Aquatic Specialist prior to overnight shipment.
2. Rinse plants thoroughly to remove excess mud and algae.
3. Place plants in a ziplock bag and **drain off all excess water**. **Label each ziplock bag** with the name of lake, sample date and site number.
4. Complete a GenTEST Chain of Custody form. GenTEST COC forms are available on our web site [www.sepro.com/lab](http://www.sepro.com/lab)
5. Place the COC and samples in a cooler with cool packs and ship via overnight express (next-day delivery). Please make sure your cooler is not leaking. Packages that are leaking do not get delivered. *FedEx is the preferred method*. Please do not ship via U.S. Mail.
6. Ideally, plants should be shipped on the same day of collection. If this is not possible, store plants in a cooler with a cool pack. Cool pack should not directly contact sample bags if possible. Put a layer or two of paper towels or newspaper between pack and plants. Do not store plants in the freezer or refrigerator. **Please do not ship plants on a Friday**.
7. Contact SePRO's laboratory at [srtclab@sepro.com](mailto:srtclab@sepro.com) or call (252) 437-3282 prior to shipping and provide an estimated arrival date.
10. Ship samples to: **SePRO Research & Technology Campus**  
 16013 Watson Seed Farm Road  
 Whitakers, NC 27891-9114  
 E-mail: [srtclab@sepro.com](mailto:srtclab@sepro.com)  
 Tel: (252) 437-3282
11. If you have questions pertaining to sample collection, please contact your SePRO Aquatic Specialist.

