

# Rhizosheath Sampling Field Sheet

<b>Materials Checklist</b>	
Gloves, masks, ethanol spray, wipes	■
Sterile forceps, scissors, spatulas, brushes	■
Sterile tubes (2 mL, 15/50 mL), Whirl-Pak bags	■
Preservatives (DNA/RNA Shield / LifeGuard / dry ice)	■
Cooler + ice/dry ice, zip bags	■
Permanent marker, labels, metadata sheets	■
Sterile blanks (field, air, tool)	■

## Sampling Steps

1. Pre-label tubes with project, site, date, plant ID, replicate, fraction.
2. Excavate plant roots (10–20 cm depth) carefully to keep soil sheath intact.
3. Shake gently to remove bulk soil → collect separately if needed.
4. Scrape tightly adhering soil (rhizosheath) with sterile tools into tubes.
5. Change gloves & sterilize tools between plants. Use blanks.
6. Preserve samples: cold on dry ice / add preservative. Record metadata.
7. Store at –80 °C (DNA) or per preservative guidelines ASAP.

<b>Metadata to Record</b>	
Site / GPS / Date / Time	
Plant species + photo	
Root depth, soil type/texture, moisture	
Temperature, sun/shade, recent rain/irrigation	
Preservation method, time to storage	
Operator / notes	