keep samples frozen for a couple of days if a multiwall, corrugated paper container is used. Unless other arrangements have been made in advance, it is important that shipments be made in the early part of the week to avoid arrival at their destination on a weekend.

Certain types of samples can be shipped fresh without undue concern. For example, spinach, hay, certain fruits, and various other crops can be expected to arrive in good condition after being subsampled, packed in sealed paper or plastic bags, and shipped by air to their destination. Unless sampling and delivery to the laboratory can be accomplished within three days (maximum), however, this method of shipment is not attempted; instead, the samples are frozen and shipped with dry ice.

If it is necessary to ship large, heavy samples of crops, such as apples or potatoes, the individual samples are packed in such a manner as to eliminate any possibility of the sample containers' bursting, thereby permitting the component units to mingle and to lose moisture. Special precautions are always taken to prevent the possibility of check samples' being contaminated by mingling with treated samples, especially if it is necessary to pack both in the same outer container.

Finally, the full, correct address of the recipient is given to avoid any delay in routing or delivery. A delay of even one day sometimes leads to spoilage or loss of the sample. It is important, when making shipment by air, to notify the addressee of the shipment before the sample arrives, giving the details of shipment such as flight number and arrival time.

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TECHNICAL SECTION

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