Plant N Leaf Collection:

* REGULAR COLLECTION
  + To be done weekly if possible, every two weeks at minimum.
  + Print labels for small collection envelopes from template (regular Leaf N collection labels in word), the date will need to be changed for each collection day. Apply one label per envelope to take out to the field.
  + For each species collect 5 leaves at random from different individuals in the large plot areas (1A, 1C, 2A, 2C, etc.) Samples should be taken at least 1m from the plot edge and not within any of the intensive study areas (do not remove leaves near mini-rhizatron tubes or in OTC). Typically the left side of the plot is better as there are not intensive study plot areas and little ground disturbance. These leaves will represent the snowmelt treatment only. Leaves should be removed from the plant at the base as near as possible to the stem and cut or pinched off to remove entire leaf. Place all five leaves of the same species from one plot into one envelope with the corresponding label.
  + Once completed, place the collected leaves (still in the envelopes) in the drying oven in the wet lab at 60C for about one day, or until completely dried. Once Dry store all envelopes from one date securely in a large ziplock bag to be taken or mailed to Caroline Melle, Colorado State University, NREL-Campus Delivery 1499, Fort Collins, Colorado, 80523-1499 at the end of the season.
* EARLY AND PEAK SEASON COLLECTIONS
  + To be done twice per year, at the beginning of the growing season just after leaf expansion of all species has occurred (except vaccinium) and at the peak of growing season after all reproductive activity but before leaf senescence has set in. This collection will be done when the first sign of senescence is seen for any species. (Hopefully this can be done when Heidi is here, but if senescence begin before she arrives it will need to be done sooner)
  + Print labels for small collection envelopes from template (early/peak Leaf N collection labels in word), the date will need to be changed for each collection day. Apply one label per envelope to take out to the field.
  + Collect one leaf of every species at random from within the all destructive (non-mantis) plot areas, leaves to be taken from 1m sq. area near mini-rizatron tube or within OTC of all large plot areas (1A, 1C, 2A, 2C, etc.). A total of 100 leaves will be collected. Place each single leave in the corresponding collection envelope.
  + Once completed, place the collected leaves (still in the envelopes) in the drying oven in the wet lab at 60C for about one day, or until completely dried. Once Dry store all envelopes from one date securely in a large ziplock bag to be taken or mailed to Caroline Melle, Colorado State University, NREL-Campus Delivery 1499, Fort Collins, Colorado, 80523-1499 at the end of the season.