

Pasture Spore Count Procedure

1. Weigh 60g of well-mixed leaf sample into a screw top jar.
2. Add 600ml of water and shake well for 3 minutes.
3. Immediately after shaking remove a sample of the wash water with a dropper. With cover slips already in place, fill both sides of two Improved Neubauer haemocytometers by capillary action.
4. **Note:** *If you only have one haemocytometer, ensure it is thoroughly washed and dried between each count, and fill it twice per sample, mixing well again before taking the second sample.*
5. At 10x magnification count the spores in the middle large square and each of the large corner squares (5 large squares). Do this on both sides of each haemocytometer so that a total of 20 squares are counted.
6. See graphic below for the squares to be counted (highlighted in red).
7. Calculate the **spores per gram of grass** = total spores counted (in 20 large squares) x 5000

