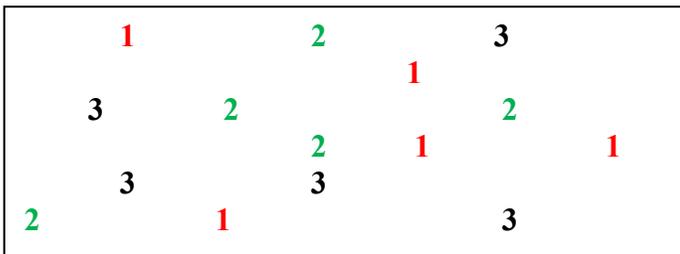


## In-Laboratory Sampling Guidance

1. Once a box/flat/carton has been received by the laboratory, analysts must aseptically collect all three (3) sub-samples from the same box or boxes that have the same lot number (lot number/code, sell by and/or use by dates must be identical for a site's samples; may disregard time stamps). The analyst shall be careful to select individual fruit or vegetables that are in good condition, without undue damage or decay.
  
2. A commodity sample consists of 3 sub-samples usually taken from an individual box/flat/carton at a given site. If not collected from the same container, all three sub-samples shall have the same lot number. The amount per sample, as designated by MP, shall be collected for each commodity. For some commodities, one entire unit per sub-sample is required, regardless of its size (i.e., cantaloupe). For other commodities, the collection of a specific weight (i.e., lettuce) is required. In the instances where a collection weight is specified, the analyst must collect within  $\pm 20\%$  of the specified weight if the specified weight is greater than 100 grams (~3.5 ounces) and within  $\pm 10\%$  of the specified weight if the specified weight is less than 100 grams. If all 3 or 2 of 3 site samples' weights are less than the 20% or 10% limits, all the samples for that site shall be rejected and a re-sampling shall be requested through the State Sampling Manager. If only 2 of the 3 sub-samples from a site are received, the laboratory may proceed with analyses and re-sampling is not required. If subsamples do not contain the correct number of units (i.e., 5 Romas), if possible, evenly redistribute units among all 3 subsamples and continue with analyses. In the event that the shortage is severe (i.e., only received 1 tomato per subsample), reject the samples and request a resample. In all instances, provide a courtesy copy notification to the MP Sampling Manager, MP Deputy Director, and the MDP liaison(s).
  
3. All loose and/or perishable produce must be collected aseptically and bagged in a manner that will avoid contact with any foreign objects which may contaminate the sample. The same sterile gloves may be used for all three (3) subsamples of a given commodity obtained from a single container. New sterile gloves must be worn for sampling from each new container and/or lot number of a given commodity.

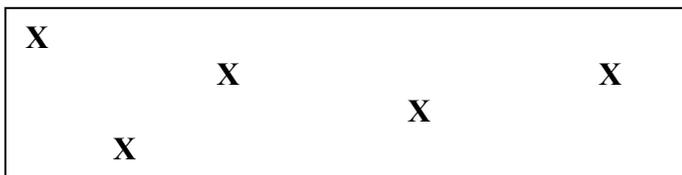
### OVERHEAD VIEW OF BOX OR FLAT



4. Randomly collect from throughout the box, flat, or crate. (Roma tomato example: subsample #1 consists of tomatoes collected at the red 1s, subsample #2 consists of tomatoes selected at the green 2s, etc.)

Illustration 1.

### SIDE VIEW OF BOX OR FLAT



← TOP OF BOX OR FLAT

← BOTTOM OF BOX OR FLAT

Illustration 2.

5. Also collect at different levels within the box or flat. Do **NOT** collect just from the top layer of produce.