
SCAA Protocols | Green Coffee Color Assessment

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Purpose

This document outlines the proper way to evaluate the color of green (unroasted) arabica coffee, as set forth by the Statistics & Standards Committee of the Specialty Coffee Association of America.

Required Equipment

- ▶ Level work-surface (table) at least 2'L x 2'W (600 mm x 600 mm).
- ▶ 42-watt full-spectrum fluorescent tabletop fixture
- ▶ Circular bean dish
- ▶ Flat-black poster board / 2' x 2' (600 mm x 600 mm)
- ▶ Wooden straight-edge (ruler) approximately 12" (300 mm) long

Instructions

Assessment should be performed in an area away from direct sunlight or other bright artificial illumination. The majority of the illumination on the sample should be provided by the table top light fixture for accurate rendering of color. The procedure requires about 180 grams of each green coffee to be evaluated.

1. Align the black poster board along the forward edge of the table.
2. Place the base of the light fixture along the edge of the poster board furthest away from the forward edge of the table.
3. Adjust the fixture head so that it is perpendicular to the tabletop.
4. Turn the light fixture on and at the brightest setting at least 5 minutes prior to use.
5. Overfill the deep side of the bean dish with the green coffee to be evaluated. Use the flat side of the straight-edge to displace excess coffee and level the top surface so that it is even with the edge of the dish.
6. Place the dish containing the sample on the poster board so that it is centered directly under the lamp head.

Note | If the sample is being compared to a reference sample, both the sample and the reference must have the same surface area and shape. Place both the sample and the reference so that they are side by side and equally positioned under the lamp head.

7. Evaluate the sample(s) by adjusting your position so that your eyes are approximately 16" (400 mm) above, and 16" (400 mm) away from the top surface of the sample(s).