

# Plant and Pest Diagnostic Laboratory

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(PPDL-1-W) 7/03

Office Use Only: Date received: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sample # \_\_\_\_\_  
Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Submitter's Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
Business \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Client's Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
Business \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include a check or money order (payable to Purdue University) for \$11 per sample (\$22 out-of-state clients). DO NOT SEND CASH. Additional charges for serological testing and diagnoses requiring exceptional amounts of time and resources may be assessed. Send invoice to:  Submitter  Client**

Mail reply to:  Submitter  Client  
Fax reply to:  Submitter  Client  
E-Mail reply to:  Submitter  Client

Information about Submitter/Client (please check one each for submitter and client):

<b>Submitter</b>	<b>Client</b>		<b>Submitter</b>	<b>Client</b>	<b>(continued)</b>
___	___	Extension Educator	___	___	Pest Control Operator
___	___	Homeowner	___	___	Nursery
___	___	Farmer	___	___	Lawn or Tree Care Company
___	___	Dealer/Industry Rep.	___	___	Garden Center
___	___	Golf Course	___	___	Consultant
___	___	Landscaper	___	___	Purdue Specialist
___	___	Greenhouse	___	___	Other _____

**Check information desired:**  
\_\_\_ Problem identification  
\_\_\_ Specimen identification  
\_\_\_ Control recommendations  
\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Plant and Pest Information

Plant or Host: \_\_\_\_\_ Cultivar/Variety: \_\_\_\_\_

**Location (choose one):**  
 \_\_\_ In dwelling \_\_\_ Greenhouse  
 \_\_\_ Tree/Shrub \_\_\_ Nursery  
 \_\_\_ Turf/Lawn \_\_\_ Orchard  
 \_\_\_ Golf course \_\_\_ Animal/Human  
 \_\_\_ Flower bed \_\_\_ Aquatic  
 \_\_\_ Vegetable garden \_\_\_ Stored grain/Food products  
 \_\_\_ Field/Farm \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Degree of Damage (choose one):**  
 \_\_\_ Heavy  
 \_\_\_ Medium  
 \_\_\_ Light

**Insect Problem? (choose one):**  
 \_\_\_ Damaging plant  
 \_\_\_ Biting/stinging  
 \_\_\_ Infesting food  
 \_\_\_ Nuisance

## For Plant/Weed Identification Only

**Plant type:** \_\_\_ Tree \_\_\_ Deciduous \_\_\_ Shrub \_\_\_ Evergreen \_\_\_ Vine \_\_\_ Groundcover \_\_\_ Herbaceous

**Plant size:** \_\_\_ Height \_\_\_ Width

**Flowers:** \_\_\_ Color \_\_\_ Month(s) \_\_\_ Size

**Fruits:** \_\_\_ Color \_\_\_ Month(s) \_\_\_ Size

**Plant age:** \_\_\_ Annual \_\_\_ Perennial (# years) \_\_\_

**Unique features** (bark, leaves, odor, thorns, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

## Additional Plant and Site Information

Approximate age: \_\_\_\_\_ Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of years at present site: \_\_\_\_\_

**Exposure:** \_\_\_ Full sun \_\_\_ Partial shade \_\_\_ Full shade \_\_\_ Windy \_\_\_ Protected Irrigation frequency: \_\_\_\_\_

**Root disturbance from:** \_\_\_ sidewalks/driveways \_\_\_ construction activities (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Size of planting: \_\_\_\_\_ % Plants affected: \_\_\_\_\_ Date first noticed problem: \_\_\_\_\_

Date planted: \_\_\_\_\_ Tillage practices: \_\_\_\_\_ Previous crop: \_\_\_\_\_

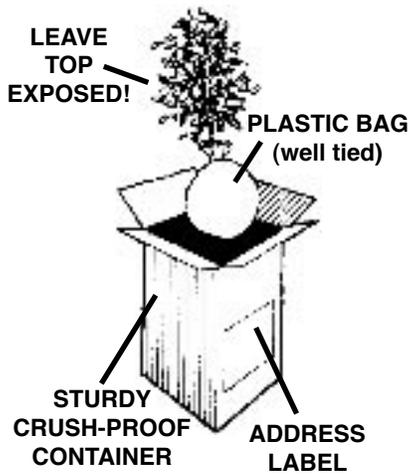
Chemicals/fertilizers applied (past 2 years) (include rates): \_\_\_\_\_

Soil type: \_\_\_ sandy \_\_\_ clay \_\_\_ silt \_\_\_ loam \_\_\_ organic Soil pH: \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PROBLEM** (Include symptoms, plant parts affected, pattern of occurrence, etc. Attach separate sheet if necessary):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your Tentative diagnosis/ID: \_\_\_\_\_

## FILLING OUT THE FORM



1. Complete the form on the reverse side to the best of your ability. **Give complete information** pertinent to the sample, including background information.
2. State the problem clearly and indicate specific information desired.
3. Photographs or digital images of the problem site are helpful.
4. Attach an additional sheet if further explanation is necessary.
5. Submit white and yellow copies of the form, along with the specimen.

## HOW TO COLLECT AND SHIP SPECIMENS

1. Collect fresh specimens. Send a generous amount of material, if available.
2. Ship in crush-proof container immediately after collecting. If holdover periods are encountered, keep specimen cool. **MAIL PACKAGES TO ARRIVE ON WEEKDAYS.**
3. Incomplete information or poorly selected specimens may result in an inaccurate diagnosis or inappropriate control recommendations. Badly damaged specimens are often unidentifiable and additional sample requests can cause delays.

## SUBMITTING PLANT SPECIMENS FOR DISEASE/INJURY DIAGNOSIS

1. **HERBACEOUS PLANTS:** for general decline/dying of plants, send **WHOLE PLANTS**, showing **EARLY SYMPTOMS**, with roots and adjacent soil intact. **DIG UP PLANT CAREFULLY.** Send several plants. Bundle plants together and wrap roots in a plastic bag. Wrap the entire bundle of plants in newspaper and place in a crush-proof container for shipment. **DO NOT ADD WATER.**
2. **TREE WILTS:** collect branches 1/2 to 1 inch in diameter from branches which are actively wilting but **NOT** totally dead. Wrap in plastic to retain moisture. Collect a handful of feeder roots and place in a plastic bag.
3. **LEAVES/BRANCHES/FLESHY PARTS:** when localized infections such as cankers, leaf spots and rots are involved, send specimens representing early and moderate stages of disease. For cankers include healthy portions from above and below diseased area. Press leaves flat between heavy paper or cardboard. Wrap fleshy parts in dry paper.
4. **TURF:** samples should be at least 4" x 4" and include both the diseased and healthy portions of grass on the same sample piece. Place the sample on a disposable plate and wrap in newspaper for shipment.

## SUBMITTING PLANT SPECIMENS FOR IDENTIFICATION

1. Include a 6-10 inch sample of the terminal (tip) portion of the stem with side buds, leaves and flowers in identifiable condition.
2. Place the sample flat between a layer or two of **DRY** newspaper, paper toweling or similar absorbent material. Try to prevent excessive folding of the leaves and place flowers so that you are looking into the center of the flower.
3. Pack the wrapped bundle in plastic, preferably with a piece of cardboard to keep the sample flat.
4. **NEVER PLACE ANY FRESH PLANT SAMPLE DIRECTLY IN PLASTIC!**
5. **NEVER ADD WATER TO THE SAMPLE.**
6. Shake excess water from **AQUATIC WEED SAMPLES** and place in plastic bag.
7. Wrap whole, uncut fruit specimens in paper, place in a strong box, and pack with additional paper to prevent crushing.
8. Package in sturdy crush-proof container and pack with additional paper to prevent shifting.

## SUBMITTING INSECT SPECIMENS

Care should be taken to package insects so that they arrive unbroken. Be sure to separate and label the insects if two or more are included in the same package and provide appropriate information on each.

1. **TINY AND/OR SOFT-BODIED SPECIMENS:** such as aphids, mites, thrips, caterpillars, grubs, and spiders should be submitted in a small leakproof bottle or vial of 70 percent alcohol. Rubbing (isopropyl) alcohol is suitable and readily available. Do not submit insects in water, formaldehyde or without alcohol as they will readily ferment and decompose.
2. **HARD-BODIED SPECIMENS:** such as flies, grasshoppers, cockroaches, wasps, butterflies and beetles can be submitted dry in a crush-proof container. Do not tape insects to paper or place them loose in envelopes.

## SUBMITTING NEMATODE SPECIMENS

If you suspect a nematode problem, and no other problem:

1. Collect at least one quart of soil from the root zone of affected plants. Include roots if plants are growing.
2. Place the entire sample in a plastic bag for shipment. Do not add water to the sample; do not allow it to dry out; and protect the sample from extreme heat (don't leave samples inside a parked vehicle in direct sunlight). It is often advantageous to collect a second, similar sample from a nearby area where plant growth appears normal.
3. To the **OUTSIDE** of each bag or package, attach a label, note, or tag identifying the sample.
4. Send to Nematology Laboratory, Purdue University, Smith Hall, 901 W. State Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2089. If you have questions, please call 765-494-4611.