



Helpful Tips for Submitting Adequate Samples to the Plant Disease Clinic

DO the following:

- Complete all sections of the Plant Disease Diagnostic Form as accurately as possible. (Make sure handwriting is legible!)
- Sample plants in an early stage of decline.
- Include the junction of healthy and affected tissue.
- Leaf samples: Send several stems/branches with affected leaves still attached.
- If a root problem is suspected, send a whole plant(s) with roots in soil if practical OR include a large handful of the fibrous roots in at least one pint of soil.
- Whole plants: Place root ball and soil in a plastic bag and tie off around base of main stem.
- Always:
 - package samples to avoid damage to tissue during shipment (e.g. use packing peanuts, newspaper, etc.).
 - mail samples early in the week. If samples are collected at the end of the week, hold in the refrigerator over the weekend and ship on the following Monday.
 - package samples in sealed plastic bags (except for mushrooms, which should be placed in a paper bag).
- Images are often worth **including** with a sample; however, in most cases, images alone are not adequate for plant diagnosis. Include well-**focused**, close-up images AND images of the overall problem in the landscape. For trees, make sure to include the base of the tree and the surrounding area on the picture.

DON'T do the following:

- **Don't** send plants that are dead.
- **Don't** send samples at the end of the week (keep refrigerated until mailing on Monday) or before a holiday.
- **Don't** wrap samples in wet paper towels or add water.
- **Don't** package the form with the sample—keep it dry and undamaged.
- **Don't** assume a soil sample includes roots: check to make sure there are adequate roots (a large handful) in the soil.