Plant Disease Identification Form

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI Extension

Plant Diagnostic Clinic

28 Mumford Hall
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO 65211

For lab use only

Lab # _____
NPDN # _____
Condition on arrival ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor
Check: $ _____ No. _____ Date _____
Cash: $ _____ Amount due: $ _____

Contact us: 573-882-3019 **Email:** plantclinic@missouri.edu http://plantclinic.missouri.edu

Mail reply to: ☐ Submitter ☐ Client
Email reply to: ☐ Submitter ☐ Client
Send bill to: ☐ Submitter ☐ Client

Charges: $15 per sample

Please use a separate form for each sample. Include a check or money order payable to the University of Missouri. Please do not send cash. Billing available.

☐ Perform only routine diagnosis: $15
☐ Notify submitter if additional testing is required; additional fees will apply.
☐ Perform additional testing if needed: $20 per testing.

Submitted by: _____
Business name: _____
Address: _____
City/state/ZIP: _____
Phone: _____ Cell: _____
Email: _____

Submitted for (client): _____
Business name: _____
Address: _____
City/state/ZIP: _____
Phone: _____ Cell: _____
Email: _____

Information about submitter/client	Submitter	Client	Submitter	Client	Submitter	Client
Submitter Client	☐	☐ Farmer/grower	☐	☐ Landscaper	☐	☐ Consultant
☐ ☐ Extension educator	☐	☐ Dealer/industry rep	☐	☐ Garden center	☐	☐ Other
☐ ☐ Homeowner	☐	☐ Lawn/tree care company	☐	☐ Nursery		_____

Crop or plant _____ **Variety** _____ **Symptoms developed in:**
Date collected _____ Date sent _____ _____ Days _____ Weeks _____ Months
County of origin _____ _____ Occurred in previous years

Turfgrass
Date established _____ ☐ Sod ☐ Seed ☐ Plugs

Trees, shrubs or ornamentals
_____ Approximate age _____ Height _____ No. of years in current site

Location	Disease incidence	Symptoms	Parts affected	Distribution	Soil pH _____
☐ Field	_____ Number of acres	☐ Abnormal growth	☐ Entire plant	☐ Certain variety	Soil drainage _____
☐ Garden	_____ Square footage	☐ Dead trees	☐ Branches	☐ Edge of field	☐ Good
☐ Golf course	_____ Percent of area	☐ Dieback	☐ Flowers	☐ General	☐ Poor
☐ Greenhouse	*-or-*	☐ Leaf drop	☐ Fruits/seeds	☐ High areas	Last soil test _____
☐ High tunnel	_____ Number of plants	☐ Leaf spot	☐ Leaves	☐ Low areas	Previous crops
☐ Houseplant	_____ Percent of plants	☐ Rot	☐ Roots	☐ Scattered	1 yr. _____
☐ Landscape bed		☐ Stunted	☐ Stems	☐ Shaded areas	2 yr. _____
☐ Lawn/turf		☐ Wilted	☐ Trunk	☐ Spots	3 yr. _____
☐ Nursery		☐ Yellowed	☐ _____	☐ Sunny areas	
☐ Orchard		☐ _____		☐ Wet areas	
☐ Pasture				☐ _____	
☐ _____					

Pesticides used previously to control problem (rates and dates): _____
Fertilizer program: _____

Please describe the problem. Include symptoms (i.e., rings, patches, spots, etc.), patterns (i.e., clustered, random, in lines), and plant parts affected. Email photos to plantclinic@missouri.edu.

Diagnosis (lab use only)
_____ Diagnostician

See reverse side of form for instructions on collecting and mailing samples

Plant disease identification

- Always include a fully filled out submission form. A separate form is required for each sample.
- A sample can be composed of many specimens. Specimens should represent the range of symptoms from early to late.
- Do not send a dead plant by itself. A dead plant is only useful when included with living, symptomatic specimens.
- Samples can be sent in a plastic Ziploc bag. Roots, including the soil, should be contained in a bag separately.
- Ship samples in a **crush-proof** box.
- Do not ship a wet plant. Excess moisture can promote microbial growth or plant decay.
- Ship sample as soon as possible after collection. Samples should be refrigerated following collection until shipping.
- Ship samples early in the week because there are no deliveries during the weekend. Shipping companies, not USPS, do not go through campus mail but deliver directly.
- Drop-off hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Submitting plants

- If possible, take photographs of the sick plant(s). Digital images can be emailed to ***plantclinic@missouri.edu***. Printed pictures and compact discs or flash drives with pictures can be sent with the sample.
- **Herbaceous plants:** Collect the entire plant. Dig up roots; do not pull the plant from the ground. If sending multiple plants, bundle them together. Enclose the roots, including the soil, in a plastic bag and leave the top part (foliage) of the plant exposed. Wrap the entire bundle in newspaper and place in a crush-proof box for shipping. Add packing materials to prevent movement inside the box.
- **Tree wilts:** Collect several branch sections from symptomatic branches. Do not collect from a dead branch. Branch sections should be ½ to 1 inch in diameter and around 6 inches in length. Place sections in plastic bag to retain moisture. Keep sample cool until shipping. Include symptomatic leaves taken from the same branch, do not place these in the plastic bag with the branch sections. Place everything in a crush-proof box with plenty of packaging materials
- **Leaves:** Collect several specimens representing the range of symptoms (healthy to dead). Press leaves between cardboard or heavy newspaper to retain their shape. Do not send leaves in an envelope and use a crush-proof box with packing materials.
- **Cankers or galls:** Cut samples 2 to 3 inches above and below the damaged area. Wrap sample(s) in newspaper and place in a crush-proof box. Add packing materials to prevent movement inside the box.
- **Fleshy samples:** Wrap specimens in newspaper. Do not send specimens in the advanced stages of decay. Place in a crush-proof box and add packing materials. This type of sample is best delivered next day to avoid rot.

Sample submission checklist

1. Ensure plastic bags are not used to enclose the vegetative portions of the plant(s).
2. Use a crush-proof box. Flimsy boxes, such as shirt boxes, are easily crushed.
3. Place packing materials around the sample to prevent movement. Crumpled newspaper works well for this.
4. Complete and include a submission form in the package.
5. Enclose payment, check or money order. Billing is available if necessary, an invoice will be sent with final report.
6. Mail the sample as soon after collection as possible or store it in the refrigerator until it can be sent.
7. Ship the sample early in the week unless guaranteed delivery to clinic by Friday. USPS can only guarantee delivery to the campus mail facility.

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