

PLANT SAMPLING PROCEDURE

How to Collect a Sample

For us to help you, you must help us. Accurate diagnosis requires accurate information about the problem, including a detailed description of the symptoms and how they developed. In addition, a "good," fresh sample is a must! A good sample generally consists of plant materials showing all phases of disease development and includes plant parts with both healthy and diseased tissue. We usually find the pathogen at the boundary between them. Completely dead leaves, branches and plants or rotten fruit generally are not useful, but they may be included as part of the sample.

Submission of samples to the Plant Health Diagnostic Lab

- ✓ Specimens must be fresh. Use plastic bags.
- ✓ Bring as much as possible of a typical diseased (not dead or badly decayed) plant, including roots. Do not include moist paper towels when taking samples.
- ✓ Try to bring several plants or plant parts showing the various stages of infection; include a healthy plant for comparison.
- ✓ Dig up plants rather than pulling them from the ground to preserve the feeder roots. If plants are potted, bring the whole pot. Enclose roots and pots in a plastic bag or wax paper that is secured at the plant crown to prevent drying of roots and contamination of the leaves with soil.
- ✓ Wrap the top of the plant in a plastic bag secured at the plant crown.
- ✓ Turf disease samples must be at least 10 cm and as deep as the roots. A cup cutter size is perfect for greens and tees. Wrap the sample in plastic to prevent drying. Include the margin of the affected areas in each sample.
- ✓ Fill out slip and include your address, phone number, acreage of land, survey number etc.,

Note: The result of the laboratory work depends upon care in sampling.