

How to Collect and Submit a Plant Sample for Disease Identification at the Utah Plant Pest Diagnostic Lab (UPPDL)

Collecting a Sample:

1. *Herbaceous plants* – Send an entire plant if possible. Include leaves stems and roots of the infected plants. Do not pull the plant out of the ground! It is best if you dig out the plant. Leave the soil on the roots of the plant intact. Include more than one specimen plant that is exhibiting symptoms if possible. Send specimens that are partially infected and showing initial stages of the disease. **Do not send dead plants, we will be unable to diagnose any problems.** If possible, send a healthy plant for comparison.
2. *Turf grass* – Collect a 4" by 4" section with a 4" layer of soil beneath the sod. The sample should be taken from the margin of the affected area which includes diseased and healthy grass. Photos are helpful in determining the possible cause.
3. *Trees* – For wilting or dieback include branches and a root sample (smaller roots from the location of the problem). Branches should be 12" in length and \square " to 1" in diameter. Collect the sample from limbs showing yellowing leaves. Do not send dead wood. Photos are helpful in evaluating the possible cause.
4. *Fruits and Vegetables (Post Harvest)* – Again, various stages of disease development is ideal. Please send samples that are firm and not deteriorated.

Packing Specimens for Shipment:

1. *Herbaceous Plants* – Place the root system with soil in a loosely sealed plastic bag. Wrap the upper portion of the plant in newspaper and place in a padded box.
2. *Turf grass* – Place the turf in a sealed plastic bag and place in a padded cardboard box.
3. *Trees* – Place both tree branches and roots in plastic bags and place in a padded cardboard box.
4. *Fruits and Vegetables (Post Harvest)* – Wrap each sample individually in paper towels or newspaper and place in a padded box.

Shipping Requirements:

Include a completed copy of the UPPDL Sample Submission Form. This information is critical for proper diagnostic processing. Samples received without this form will not be diagnosed.

Be sure to enclose **\$5.00 for each sample** (i.e. two separate samples = \$10.00, etc.) that is submitted. Make checks payable to Utah State University.

Ship to: Utah Plant Pest Diagnostic Lab, Department of Biology, 5305 Old Main Hill, Logan UT 84322-5349

Samples are processed in approximately 10-14 days. A letter with a diagnosis and recommendations will be returned. Please include your e-mail address for a prompt reply.

Questions? Contact us at (435) 797-2435.