

<b>FOR PDL USE</b>	Lab No. _____
	Agent _____
	Date Collected _____
	Rec'd by _____
	Date Rec'd _____
	Date Ans'd _____

**Plant Diagnostic Lab**

**PLANT PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION FORM**

Entered Computer  PAID \_\_\_\_\_

Submitter's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Where Collected (town) \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one of the following:

- |                                    |   |  |  |
|------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homeowner | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial (check appropriate box below) | <input type="checkbox"/> Field-grown   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other           |
|                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaper                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Grower/Farmer |  |
|                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf course   | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree care       |
|                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn care                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse    | <input type="checkbox"/> Crop consultant |

**Please include payment (payable to UNH-PDL) for \$15.00 per sample. Additional charges for virus testing will be invoiced.**

**PLANT INFORMATION**

Plant: \_\_\_\_\_ Cultivar/Variety: \_\_\_\_\_

Plant Part(s) Showing Symptoms

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leaves/needles | <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stem/trunk     | <input type="checkbox"/> Flowers      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Branches       | <input type="checkbox"/> Roots/tubers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buds           |                                       |

Symptoms (Examine all plant parts)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wilt                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Dead areas                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rot                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal color              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stem canker              | <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal growth             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leaf spots, scab, blight | <input type="checkbox"/> Fungus-like growth, insects |

Degree of damage:  Heavy  Medium  Light % plants affected \_\_\_\_\_

Date problem first noticed: \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. plant age: \_\_\_\_\_ Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Date planted \_\_\_\_\_

**SITE INFORMATION**

Exposure:  Full sun  Partial shade  Full shade  Windy  Protected

Moisture/Drying: Irrigation:  Overhead/hand  Drip/trickle Frequency: \_\_\_\_\_

Location:  Landscape  Plants closely planted  Flower/vegetable garden  Near sidewalk/driveway  Near street

Chemicals/Fertilizers applied (last year) \_\_\_\_\_

Soil conditions: Drainage:  good  moderate  poor Terrain:  sloped  level  low Type:  sandy  clay  loam

**Briefly describe the problem.**

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**DIAGNOSIS**  infectious  non-infectious By \_\_\_\_\_

Common name \_\_\_\_\_

Causal Agent \_\_\_\_\_

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

## HOW TO COLLECT AND SEND SPECIMENS FOR DISEASE DIAGNOSIS

Correct diagnosis of a plant disease depends upon receiving a *fresh, suitable sample*. Adherence to the following is necessary for a timely, accurate diagnosis.

### COLLECTING SPECIMENS:

1. Complete a PLANT PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION FORM. The completed form and payment ***must*** be included with each plant specimen. Make checks payable to **UNH-PDL**.
2. Carefully examine all plant organs, including roots, if possible. Take time to select representative samples from all parts displaying symptoms or fungal growth.
3. Generally, specimens showing a range of symptoms are best for diagnosis purposes.
  - a. It is often desirable to have healthy plants for comparison. Include them if possible.
  - b. All specimens should be fresh when collected. **COMPLETELY DEAD OR DRY PLANT MATERIAL IS OF NO VALUE.**
4. Send *generous amounts* of material.
  - a. *Herbaceous/small plants*: Send the entire plant, if possible, including roots and surrounding soil. Dig (don't pull) plants with a shovel or trowel.
  - b. *Leaves*: Send several stages of symptoms. Place several leaves between cardboard, file cards or magazine pages, then in an **OPEN** plastic bag. **DO NOT** wrap leaves in wet paper towels. Place in a padded envelope or box.
  - c. *Fleshy parts*: Wrap in dry paper towels, then in an **OPEN** plastic bag, then in a box with additional paper padding.
  - d. *Cankers*: Include healthy portions from above and below the canker. Place in an **OPEN** plastic bag and then in a box.
  - e. *Twigs, branches, and stems*: Collect from the plant area just starting to show symptoms. Place in a plastic bag or wrap in newspaper or wax paper. Small branches that still hold live foliage may need to have the cut, woody end wrapped in damp paper towels then wrapped in plastic. Take samples from where the diseased portion meets the still healthy tissue.
  - f. *Turfgrass diseases*: A 4-6" sample from the transition area between the healthy and diseased portions of grass is most useful. Include roots and soil to a depth of at least 2" and foliage showing a range of symptoms. Keep the sample moist and cool, but **do not** add water or seal tightly in plastic. Wrap the sample in several layers of newspaper and pack it snugly in a sturdy box. If you suspect an unusual problem, take a sample before spraying any fungicides. It is often difficult to make an accurate diagnosis after a fungicide has been applied.
  - g. *Vascular wilt*: Plants or plant parts that suddenly wilt may be infected with a vascular disease. Take branch or stem sections 1/4 to 1 inch in diameter and 4 to 6 inches long from the wilting plant or recently wilted plant part. Try to avoid sending plant material that has been dead for any length of time. Wrap in plastic to maintain moisture.
5. ***Never*** mix samples from different plants in the same bag.

### SHIPPING:

Samples should be hand delivered, if possible, or sent by the fastest means. Please note that only certain overnight carriers can deliver directly to the building (ex. UPS, Federal Express). Otherwise, your specimen will be delivered to campus Main Services and may sit for a few days before arriving at the lab, possibly rendering the specimen useless. Two-day Priority Mail, available through the U. S. Postal Service, provides delivery directly to the building, is cheaper than overnight, and samples arrive "fresh". **Do not send samples late in the week**; Monday-Wednesday shipping is best. **Be patient** -- disease culturing takes anywhere from several days to several weeks. **Include your phone number.**

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**Make \$15 check payable to UNH-PDL.  
(Sample = each plant species)**