PLANT PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION FORM

Submitter’s Name __________________________ Business __________________________ Where collected (town) __________________________
Address __________________________________ City, State, Zip __________________________ County __________________________

Home Phone ( ) __________________________ Cell ( ) __________________________ E-mail __________________________

Please check the appropriate boxes below:
☐ Homeowner or ☐ Commercial Grower (check appropriate box below)
☐ Landscaper  ☐ Grower/Farmer  ☐ Greenhouse  ☐ Nursery  ☐ Field grown
☐ Lawn care  ☐ Golf course  ☐ Tree care  ☐ Crop consultant  ☐ Other

Do you want organic recommendations?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

Please include payment (payable to UNH-PDL) for $20.00 per sample. Charges for additional testing will be invoiced.

PLANT INFORMATION

Plant: __________________________________________ Cultivar/Variety: __________________________

Plant Part(s) Showing Symptoms:
☐ leaves/needles  ☐ stem/trunk  ☐ branches  ☐ buds
☐ fruit  ☐ flowers  ☐ roots/tubers

Symptoms (Examine all plant parts):
☐ wilt  ☐ rot  ☐ stem canker  ☐ leaf spots, scab, blight
☐ dead areas  ☐ abnormal color  ☐ abnormal growth  ☐ fungus-like growth, insects

Degree of damage:  ☐ Heavy  ☐ Medium  ☐ Light % plant affected __________________________
Date problem first noticed: __________________________ Approx. plant age: _________ Height: _________ Date planted: __________________________

SITE INFORMATION

Exposure:  ☐ full sun  ☐ full shade  ☐ partial shade  ☐ windy  ☐ protected
Moisture/drying/irrigation:  ☐ overhead/hand  ☐ drip/trickle
Frequency: __________________________ (times per week)
Location:  ☐ landscape  ☐ flower/veg. garden  ☐ near sidewalk/driveway/street  ☐ greenhouse
Soil conditions - Drainage:  ☐ good  ☐ moderate  ☐ poor
☐ level  ☐ low

Chemicals/fertilizers applied and date(s) applied: __________________________________________

Briefly describe the problem:

FOR UNH-PDL USE ONLY

DIAGNOSIS:  ☐ infectious  ☐ non-infectious  By __________________________
Common name __________________________________________
Causal agent __________________________________________

RECOMMENDATIONS: 10/2017
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. $20 fee per sample.

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 of each stage 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. (Single leaf samples are NOT acceptable.)
   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 and then in a box.
   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 fungicide. 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 ¼ 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). Other wise, your specimen will be delivered to campus Mail 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 US 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.

**Lab Address:**  
Plant Diagnostic Laboratory  
G37 Spaulding Hall, UNH  
38 Academic Way (formerly College Road)  
Durham, NH 03824-3544  
Telephone: (603) 862-3200  
Fax No: (603) 862-2717

Make check payable to UNH-PDL, $20 per sample.  
(sample = each plant species)