Extension

Plant Diagnostic Lab

☐ entered into computer

***$20.00** UNH-PDL Fee*

PLANT PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION FORM

☐ **PAID** _____

Lab No. _____

FOR PDL USE

Agent _____
Date Collected _____
Rec'd by _____
Date Rec'd _____
Date Ans'd _____

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 ☐ fruit
☐ stem/trunk ☐ flowers
☐ branches ☐ roots/tubers
☐ buds

Symptoms (Examine all plant parts)

☐ wilt ☐ dead areas
☐ rot ☐ abnormal color
☐ stem canker ☐ abnormal growth
☐ leaf spots, scab, blight ☐ 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 Terrain: ☐ sloped ☐ level ☐ low

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

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.** $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
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Durham, NH 03824-3544
Telephone: (603) 862-3200
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Make check payable to UNH-PDL,
$20 per sample.
(sample = each plant species)