**SHIPPING GUIDELINES**

These guidelines should be followed for all types of plant samples.

1. Fill out the accompanying Plant Diagnostic Check sheet as completely as possible.
2. Send a plentiful amount of FRESH plant material; it is best to include the entire plant when possible. Dig (do not pull) up the plant and ship as soon as possible.
3. Send a sample characteristic of the problem that exhibits a range of symptoms.
4. **DO NOT ADD WATER OR WET PAPER TOWELS TO THE SAMPLE!**
5. Seal the plant material in a plastic bag and pack in a crush-proof container.
6. Send only one type of sample in each bag.
7. Send information in a separate plastic bag.

**SPECIFIC COLLECTION GUIDELINES**

(All samples should be sent in a plastic bag with a few air holes cut in it).

**Crops/Annual plants:** Send entire plants, including roots and soil. Carefully dig the plants up. Send several plants showing a range of symptoms. Seal the roots in a plastic bag and place the entire sample in a larger plastic bag. **DO NOT ADD WATER**

**Tree wilt diseases:** Collect several branches ½ to 1 inch in diameter and about 12 inches long. The samples should be in the process of wilting but not dead.

**Trees/shrubs:** (foliage diseases, cankers and fruit rots) Collect several branches 10-12 inches long (or fruit) showing a range of symptoms.

**Turf:** Samples should be 6 inches by 4 inches deep. Collect the sample near the margin of the affected area so that a range of diseased and healthy tissue is included.

**NEMATODE COLLECTION GUIDELINES**

- Diagnostic sampling for initial detection of a nematode problem:
  Separate samples from healthy and affected areas are essential for a reliable diagnosis of nematode damage. Collect several soil and root cores to a depth of 6 to 8 inches from the margin of the affected area. The soil cores should be bulked, mixed and subsamples. Repeat the sampling process nearby in the healthy area. Submit 1 pint of soil and roots. Include the plants if possible.

- Advisory sampling for management purposes (for soybean cyst):
  Collect samples prior to planting. Divide the field into sections based on soil type and cropping history. From each section collect at least five soil cores taken at a depth of 6 to 8 inches. The soil cores should be bulked, mixed and subsampled. Submit 1 pint of soil.

- Sampling for pine wilt:
  Collect a branch at least 2 inches in diameter and 6 to 8 inches long from adjacent to the trunk of the tree

  Place sample in plastic bag immediately after collection and keep cool until shipping. **DO NOT ADD WATER TO THE SAMPLE.** Mail early in the week (Monday – Wednesday)

  Allow 1-2 weeks for a reply.

**FEES**

There will be a $5.00 diagnostic charge per plant or cost of individual test fee ($10 or $20). Samples not submitted through the County extension office will have an additional overhead surcharge. Digital Diagnostics – no charge.