

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 \$10.00 diagnostic charge per plant or cost of individual test fee (\$25 or \$50). Samples not submitted through the County extension office will have an additional overhead surcharge. Digital Diagnostics – no charge.