

# Plant Disease Identification Form

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI  
**Extension**

## Plant Diagnostic Clinic

28 Mumford Hall  
University of Missouri  
Columbia, MO 65211

For lab use only

Lab # \_\_\_\_\_  
NPDN # \_\_\_\_\_  
Condition on arrival ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor  
Check: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Cash: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact us: 573-882-3019

Email: [plantclinic@missouri.edu](mailto:plantclinic@missouri.edu)

<http://plantclinic.missouri.edu>

Mail reply to:	Submitter	Client	<b>Charges: \$15 per sample</b>	Perform only routine diagnosis: \$15
Email reply to:	Submitter	Client	Please use a separate form for each sample. Include a check or money order payable to the University of Missouri.	Notify submitter if additional testing is required; additional fees will apply.
Send bill to:	Submitter	Client	Please do not send cash. Billing available.	Perform additional testing if needed: \$20 per testing.

Submitted by: _____	Submitted for (client): _____
Business name: _____	Business name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City/state/ZIP: _____	City/state/ZIP: _____
Phone: _____ Cell: _____	Phone: _____ Cell: _____
Email: _____	Email: _____

Information about submitter/client		Submitter	Client	Submitter	Client	Submitter	Client
Submitter	Client		Farmer/grower		Landscape		Consultant
	Extension educator		Dealer/industry rep		Garden center		Other
	Homeowner		Lawn/tree care company		Nursery		

<b>Crop or plant</b> _____	<b>Variety</b> _____	<b>Symptoms developed in:</b>
Date collected _____	Date sent _____	_____ Days _____ Weeks _____ Months
County of origin _____		_____ Occurred in previous years

Turfgrass			Trees, shrubs or ornamentals			
Date established _____	Sod	Seed	Plugs	Approximate age _____	Height _____	No. of years in current site _____
Location	Disease incidence	Symptoms	Parts affected	Distribution	Soil pH _____	
Field	_____ Number of acres	Abnormal growth	Entire plant	Certain variety	Soil drainage _____	
Garden	_____ Square footage	Dead trees	Branches	Edge of field	Good	
Golf course	_____ Percent of area	Dieback	Flowers	General	Poor	
Greenhouse	-or-	Leaf drop	Fruits/seeds	High areas	Last soil test _____	
High tunnel	_____ Number of plants	Leaf spot	Leaves	Low areas	Previous crops	
Houseplant	_____ Percent of plants	Rot	Roots	Scattered	1 yr. _____	
Landscape bed		Stunted	Stems	Shaded areas	2 yr. _____	
Lawn/turf		Wilted	Trunk	Spots	3 yr. _____	
Nursery		Yellowed	_____	Sunny areas		
Orchard				Wet areas		
Pasture						

Pesticides used previously to control problem (rates and dates): \_\_\_\_\_

Fertilizer program: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the problem. Include symptoms (i.e., rings, patches, spots, etc.), patterns (i.e., clustered, random, in lines), and plant parts affected. Email photos to [plantclinic@missouri.edu](mailto:plantclinic@missouri.edu).

**Diagnosis** (lab use only)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Diagnostician

See reverse side of form for instructions  
on collecting and mailing samples

## ***Plant disease identification***

- Always include a fully filled out submission form. A separate form is required for each sample.
- A sample can be composed of many specimens. Specimens should represent the range of symptoms from early to late.
- Do not send a dead plant by itself. A dead plant is only useful when included with living, symptomatic specimens.
- Samples should **not** be sent in a plastic bag. Only the roots, including the soil, should be contained in a plastic bag.
- Ship samples in a **crush-proof** box.
- Do not ship a wet plant. Excess moisture can promote microbial growth or plant decay.
- Ship sample as soon as possible after collection. Samples should be refrigerated following collection until shipping.
- Ship samples early in the week because there are no deliveries during the weekend. Shipping companies, not USPS, do not go through campus mail but deliver directly.
- Drop-off hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## ***Submitting plants***

- If possible, take photographs of the sick plant(s). Digital images can be emailed to [plantclinic@missouri.edu](mailto:plantclinic@missouri.edu). Printed pictures and compact discs or flash drives with pictures can be sent with the sample.
- **Herbaceous plants:** Collect the entire plant. Dig up roots; do not pull the plant from the ground. If sending multiple plants, bundle them together. Enclose the roots, including the soil, in a plastic bag and leave the top part (foliage) of the plant exposed. Wrap the entire bundle in newspaper and place in a crush-proof box for shipping. Add packing materials to prevent movement inside the box.
- **Tree wilts:** Collect several branch sections from symptomatic branches. Do not collect from a dead branch. Branch sections should be ½ to 1 inch in diameter and around 6 inches in length. Place sections in plastic bag to retain moisture. Keep sample cool until shipping. Include symptomatic leaves taken from the same branch, do not place these in the plastic bag with the branch sections. Place everything in a crush-proof box with plenty of packaging materials.
- **Leaves:** Collect several specimens representing the range of symptoms (healthy to dead). Press leaves between cardboard or heavy newspaper to retain their shape. Do not send leaves in an envelope and use a crush-proof box with packing materials.
- **Cankers or galls:** Cut samples 2 to 3 inches above and below the damaged area. Wrap sample(s) in newspaper and place in a crush-proof box. Add packing materials to prevent movement inside the box.
- **Fleshy samples:** Wrap specimens in newspaper. Do not send specimens in the advanced stages of decay. Place in a crush-proof box and add packing materials. This type of sample is best delivered next day to avoid rot.

## ***Sample submission checklist***

1. Ensure plastic bags are not used to enclose the vegetative portions of the plant(s).
2. Use a crush-proof box. Flimsy boxes, such as shirt boxes, are easily crushed.
3. Place packing materials around the sample to prevent movement. Crumpled newspaper works well for this.
4. Complete and include a submission form in the package.
5. Enclose payment, check or money order. Billing is available if necessary, an invoice will be sent with final report.
6. Mail the sample as soon after collection as possible or store it in the refrigerator until it can be sent.
7. Ship the sample early in the week unless guaranteed delivery to clinic by Friday. USPS can only guarantee delivery to the campus mail facility.