



**Extension**

**UNH Plant Diagnostic Lab**

Sample Submission Form  
\$20 fee - checks to UNH-PDL

**Lab Staff only:**

PDL#: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Rec: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail or drop off:**

UNH Plant Diagnostic Lab  
Barton Hall  
34 Sage Way  
Durham NH, 03824

**Contact us with any questions or photos:**

(603) 862-3043  
unh.pdl@unh.edu

**Submitter information:**

Submitter's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Business: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you working with an extension agent or someone else on this problem that we should also send the report to? \_\_\_\_\_

**Include payment (checks to UNH-PDL) of \$20.00 per sample. Charges for additional testing will be invoiced.**

**Sample Information:**

Plant: \_\_\_\_\_ Cultivar, variety: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sample category (e.g. vegetable, woody, ornamental, turf etc): \_\_\_\_\_  
Material submitted ( e.g. stem, leaves etc): \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Planted: \_\_\_\_\_ Date problem appeared: \_\_\_\_\_ Date collected: \_\_\_\_\_  
Did it appear:  Suddenly  Gradually Is it getting:  Worse  Staying the same  
Number of Plants affected: \_\_\_\_\_ Percentage (%) of Plants affected: \_\_\_\_\_

**Symptoms:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Damage Distribution:**

Are any other plant species affected around the planting? \_\_\_\_\_  
Did the symptoms appear to be related to the weather? \_\_\_\_\_  
Pesticide History: \_\_\_\_\_

Any other relevant information you can think of:

\_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to send a **photo of the symptoms**, you can print it out & send with the sample, or email it to [unh.pdl@unh.edu](mailto:unh.pdl@unh.edu). In the email, make sure that the name in the email matches the name on the sample submission form so the two can be matched up!

Sent email with attached photo

## 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 **Sample submission form** for each sample you send to the lab. 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 or plant parts 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  $\frac{1}{4}$  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. If sending multiple samples in one box please label the bags and separate sample forms clearly for each sample.