

SAMPLE COLLECTION & SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS AND TIPS

1 Choose the right sample.

- Review these instructions before submitting a sample. Call the clinic with questions or for specific instructions.
- If you see DISEASE symptoms (irregular green or yellow patterns on the leaves, lesions, chlorosis, wilting, necrosis, etc.), collect those plants or plant parts.
- Include plant parts that look healthy, as the pathogens are mostly active in newly infected tissues. If possible, send whole plants or whole stems.
- When available, include samples with early and late stages of disease.
- Look around the affected area and make note of symptoms/damage and patterns.
- Collect samples before pesticide applications.
- Include pictures of the field if possible. You can send them via e-mail to plantlab@colostate.edu
- If you are submitting INSECT samples, include the plant material on which they were found. If no insects are present, include the entire plant or plant parts showing damage progression.
- Use a rigid container to send the insect sample. Place larvae in a vial with alcohol.

2 Describe the problem.

- Complete the submission form available on the clinic website (<http://plantclinic.agsci.colostate.edu>) or e-mail the clinic and we will send you the form.
- Include contact information so we can ask questions and provide information.
- Include location and date of collection.
- Include relevant information about the plant and problem history, including plant variety, when damage occurred, level of damage, weather patterns, pesticide applications, rotation crops, color of insects, etc.

3 Pack the sample and keep it fresh.

- Pack the sample loosely in a plastic bag as soon as it is collected to prevent it from drying out. Self-closing bags are great for this.
- If you are including roots, shake soil off and wrap the roots in plastic.
- You do not need to place paper towels in the bags and do not add water.
- Please do not place the submission form or any other stationary in the bag with the sample as it may be damaged in the shipping process. Attach it to the outside of the bag so that it arrives in good shape.
- Send your sample in a sturdy box or large padded envelope.

4 Send the sample promptly.

- If possible, drop off or ship your sample on the same day that you collect it. Avoid letting the sample sit in the bag or shipping package for a few days before mailing it. If you cannot send the sample immediately, keep it refrigerated until you can.
- We recommend sending samples between Monday and Wednesday. Do not send your samples on a Friday to avoid having them sit in a mailing room over the weekend.