

PLANT SAMPLE COLLECTION & SUBMISSION

Instructions and Tips

1. Choose the right sample.

- If you see DISEASE SYMPTOMS (irregular green or yellow patterns on the leaves, lesions, chlorosis, wilting, necrosis, etc.), collect plant parts that include those symptoms AND healthy plant tissue. 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.
- Send us images of the whole plant and/or field to plantlab@colostate.edu. Images are very helpful to us!
- If you are submitting samples with INSECT/ARTHROPOD DAMAGE, include the entire plant or plant parts showing damage progression. If you found the insect/arthropod, send the specimens in a rigid container with alcohol. Make sure it is sealed properly.

2. Describe the problem.

- Complete the submission form, available on the clinic website <https://plantclinic.agsci.colostate.edu>. You can also e-mail the clinic (plantlab@colostate.edu) and we will send you the form.
- Include contact information so we can ask questions and provide information.
- Include location information and date of collection.
- Provide 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 or aluminum foil.
- Do not 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.

- Drop off or ship your sample on the same day that you collect it, if possible. Avoid leaving the sample in the bag or shipping package for multiple 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 as they will remain in a mailing room over the weekend.