



Instructions for Completing the Plant Disease Diagnostic Form (#450-097)

The Plant Disease Diagnostic Form was designed to accommodate a wide variety of plants and growing situations; therefore, certain entries on this form may not be appropriate for a particular specimen or situation. Much of the information requested helps reconstruct the "field situation" for the diagnostician. Consider each section of the form carefully; the information provides important clues to the diagnostician that are significant in guiding the diagnostic process and formulating the control recommendation. Your local Extension office staff can assist you in completing the form and help you to include the relevant information requested on the form, so, whenever possible, complete the form with the assistance of your local VCE agent or VCE staff member.

1. Provide the date the sample was collected.
2. Plant cultivars/varieties can differ in their response to plant pathogens and environmental conditions, so try to include this additional information, along with the plant name.
3. List the name of the Extension agent or VCE staff personnel assisting the client with the sample. If no agent/staff is listed, the diagnostic report cannot be sent to the VCE office and the relevant VCE personnel will not be able to assist the client. Please list the area code and phone number of the Extension agent/staff in case the diagnostician needs to contact the agent/staff.
4. List the name of the grower and the grower email (if no grower email is provided the Plant Clinic will not send an electronic report to the grower). The address is useful, particularly if a hardcopy report needs to be mailed by the Extension office, and it can also be useful for the diagnostic process. The area code and phone number of the grower are often useful if the diagnostician or Extension agent/staff needs to contact the grower for additional information.
5. Please detail 1) the problem and/or concern clearly and 2) describe the symptoms observed in detail. This is critical because 1) a sample that is shipped may no longer display the symptoms you observe and 2) you may be able to see details about the pattern of the problem on the plant(s) or within the planting that the diagnostician cannot see on the sample submitted.
6. Statements such as, "Please diagnose the problem.", "Why is my plant dying?", "How can I save this [plant]?" are not useful for the diagnostic process.
7. Check the appropriate box so that the diagnostician is able to provide an appropriate control recommendation.
8. Check the appropriate boxes under each of the four fields.
9. Include the date the symptoms were first noticed and check the appropriate box.
10. An estimate of the size of the total planting size/number of plants is very helpful for both guiding the diagnostic process and providing an appropriate management recommendation.
11. The percentage and/or number of plants affected provides critical information on the extent of the problem.
12. List last year's and next year's crop, if applicable (e.g. field crops, vegetable garden).
13. Knowledge of past weather conditions and irrigation information helps to determine whether an abiotic problem may be involved.
14. Check the appropriate boxes under each of the five fields in this section.
15. List the date of the last soil test.
16. Fertilizer, pesticide and growth regulator application history is important information for identifying certain problems. For this information to be of value, the specific common name and/or brand name of each chemical needs to be listed, in addition to the rate and date of application for each fertilizer/pesticide/growth regulator listed.
17. This section is only necessary for woody plants, such as trees (including fruit trees), shrubs, woody ground covers and vines (including grapevines). If applicable, please take the time to complete this last section