

HOW TO SELECT AND SEND PLANT DISEASE SPECIMENS TO THE RUTGERS PLANT DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

I. SAMPLING:

- a) Collect several samples representing different stages of symptom development.
- b) Obtain samples just prior to shipping to ensure that they are “fresh.” Dried samples are very difficult to analyze.
- c) For small plants, send several entire plants, in their containers if possible.
- d) For trees or shrubs, send a generous woody portion including leaves, flowers, and fruits as available. If possible, send entire plants.

II. PACKING/SHIPPING:

- a) Remove excess water or dew from the sample. Press the material between dry toweling or newspaper. **DO NOT** wrap plant material in plastic or seal in a plastic bag. Wrap each specimen separately and in such a way as to keep any root-ball soil/media in place.
- b) Select a strong container, such as a corrugated box or tube, that will not crush in transit.
- c) Mail samples early in the week. Samples mailed on Thursday or Friday generally remain in the post office over the weekend where high temperatures can stimulate decay.
- d) Complete and enclose this sample submission form and the **appropriate payment (see below) for each sample to be analyzed**. Make checks or money orders payable to **Rutgers, The State University**. See reverse for credit card payment. (Fees are subject to change.) Should extensive laboratory analysis be required, you will be notified of the delay and may be asked to submit additional fees to cover laboratory expenses.

III. PAYMENT: All fees are per sample.

In-state.....\$40
Out-of-state.....\$95

Virus screening:

Diagnostic screen.....\$200
Individual virus test.....fee varies - call for pricing

IV. MAILING ADDRESS: Be sure to use appropriate address to help ensure timely delivery.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE only:

Plant Diagnostic Laboratory
Rutgers NJAES
PO Box 550
Milltown, NJ 08850-0550

Physical address for

OTHER DELIVERY SERVICES only:

Plant Diagnostic Laboratory
Rutgers NJAES
Ralph Geiger Turfgrass Education Center
20 Indyk-Engel Way
North Brunswick, NJ 08902