



## HOW TO SELECT AND SEND INSECT AND TICK SPECIMENS TO THE RUTGERS PLANT DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

### I. SAMPLING:

- a) Most insects and similar animals submitted for identification should be placed in leak-proof vials containing 70% ethyl or isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol. Soft-bodied insects must be sent in alcohol.
- b) For mites, scales, aphids, thrips, caterpillars, or other larvae, send the living insects on the affected plant part. Handle as a normal plant sample and submit with the appropriate form (i.e., Commercial Growers, Home Grounds and Garden, or Golf and Landscape Turf).
- c) Send butterflies and moths in crush-proof containers or carefully folded in paper.
- d) Send living grubs in soil (1 pint). Enclose any damaged plant tissue. Handle as a normal plant sample and submit with the appropriate form.
- e) For nematodes, follow instructions found in Rutgers Cooperative Extension fact sheet FS757. For a copy of this publication, contact your local Rutgers Cooperative Extension county office, the Rutgers Publication Distribution Center, or FAX your request to the Plant Diagnostic Laboratory (732-932-1270).
- f) For all samples, complete the sample submission form. Include address, date, location, or circumstances of collection

### II. PACKING/SHIPPING:

- a) Select a strong container, such as a corrugated box or mailing tube, that will not crush in transit.
- b) 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.
- c) 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 subject to change.)

**III. PAYMENT: All fees are per sample.**      In-state.....\$40  
Out-of-state.....\$95

### 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