

# Plant and Weed Identification Form

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
University Extension

**Submit samples and form to:**  
Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic  
327 Bessey Hall  
Iowa State University  
Ames, IA 50011  
  
(515) 294-0581

**For Office Use Only**  
Sample No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please use a separate form for each plant problem. Include a check or money order (payable to Iowa State University) for \$10.00 per sample. See page 2 for collecting and shipping instructions.**

County of owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate to whom report should be sent:**  Owner or  Person who submitted

Do you want weed management recommendations:  yes  no

**Location of Plant**

- Garden
- Lawn
- Woodland
- Roadside
- Field
- Other

**Plant Characteristics**

Height: \_\_\_\_\_  
Width: \_\_\_\_\_  
Plant Type:

- Tree
- Shrub
- Herbaceous
- Vine

**Flower**

Color: \_\_\_\_\_  
Size: \_\_\_\_\_  
Month of Bloom: \_\_\_\_\_  
Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Information**  
Please describe any additional traits and features not present on the plant specimen.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**For clinic use:**

## Collecting Samples

1. Examine the plant carefully. Keep in mind that symptoms may appear at some distance from the actual site of the disorder. Look for any irregularities or injuries in the lower portion of the plant.
2. Make sure the specimen is representative of the condition in question.
3. Include enough material to show all stages of the disease from healthy to maximum disease involvement.
4. Wrap specimens in dry paper toweling or clean newspaper. (Do not add moisture!) Pack the specimen loosely in a plastic bag to prevent excessive drying and mail in a strong carton.
5. Send only freshly collected specimens by the most rapid transit method. Undue delays can result in extensive deterioration of the specimen which makes diagnosis difficult or impossible.
6. Fill out form as completely as possible.

## Hints for specific plant material

1. Send entire plant or plants whenever possible.
2. Fleshy fruits, roots, and tubers—wrap with enough clean, absorbent material such as paper toweling to absorb any leakage.
3. Woody plants—branch specimens should consist of 4 to 6 pieces which measure 6 to 8 inches long and come from branches 1/2 to 1 inch in diameter. Collect samples only from branches actively displaying symptoms. Dead, deteriorating branches are often worthless as specimens. Canker may be sampled by cutting and removing a rectangular section of bark across the margin of the canker so that some healthy tissue is included with the margin and the central portions of the canker.
4. Turf—lift out a section of turf about 4 to 6 inches square so that healthy plants are included along with those at the margin and the central portions of the affected area.

### ... and justice for all

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