

Plant Identification Form

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension

Submit samples and form to:

Horticulture Extension
Iowa State University
106 Horticulture Hall
Ames, IA 50011
515-294-3108
hortline@iastate.edu

See last page for instructions on collecting and shipping plant samples and/or photos.

Please provide as much information as possible.

1. Owner:

Name Owner Name
Address Owner Address Line 1
 Owner Address Line 2
Phone Owner Phone
Email

2. Submitted by:

Name Submitted Name
Address Submitted Address Line 1
 Submitted Address Line 2
Phone Owner Phone
Email

3. Date collected:

5. Location of Plant:

- Garden
- Lawn
- Woodland
- Roadside
- Field
- Other: _____

Sample
On the next page, fill out the fields in blue (examples shown in questions 1 and 2). To begin, click in the top left field, *Owner Name*. Then tab to the rest of the fields on the page. Click in the shadow boxes to indicate your choices on questions 5, 6 and 9.

Description:

Plant Type:
 Tree Shrub
 Vine Other: _____

Description:

9. Leaves/Stems

Fall Color: _____

Stem Color & Texture: _____

Habit:

- Upright Oval Round
- Columnar Vase-shaped
- Pyramidal Weeping
- Spreading Other: _____

Important
Before printing, choose Page Setup (File Menu).
Choose paper size "Letter", NOT "Letter (small)."
The form will not print correctly unless it prints out full size.

Reply:

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Please provide as much information as possible.

1. Owner:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

2. Submitted by:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

3. Date collected: _____

4. County: _____

5. Location of Plant:

- Garden
- Lawn
- Woodland
- Roadside
- Field
- Other: _____

6. Plant Characteristics:

Height: _____

Width: _____

Plant Type:

- Tree Shrub
- Annual/Perennial
- Vine

7. Flower:

Color: _____ Size: _____

Month of Bloom: _____

Description:

8. Fruit/Seed:

Color: _____

Size: _____

Description:

9. Leaves/Stems:

Fall Color: _____

Stem Color & Texture: _____

Habit:

- Upright Oval Round
- Columnar Vase-shaped
- Pyramidal Weeping
- Spreading Other: _____

10. Additional Information:

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

Reply:

Collecting Specimens:

1. The specimen should be representative of the plant in question.
2. If present, the specimen should include stems, leaves, flowers, fruits, and seeds. The size of the specimen depends on the type of plant. Woody plant specimens should be approximately 1 to 1-1/2 feet in length. Dig up entire plants when sending in small herbaceous plants. A grass or turf sample should be 4 to 6 inches in diameter (if possible) and include the root system. Gently shake the sample to remove excess soil from the roots.
3. Wrap specimens in dry paper toweling or clean newspaper and pack loosely in a plastic bag.
DO NOT ADD WATER.
4. Place the specimen in a strong box or carton to prevent damage during shipment.
5. Send only freshly collected samples by the most rapid transit method. Undue delays can result in extensive deterioration of the specimen which makes identification difficult.
6. Fleshy fruits, roots, and tubers should be wrapped with enough clean, absorbent material, such as paper toweling, to absorb any leakage.
7. Include photos with plant samples, if possible.

Sending Photos:

1. Submit photographs of the entire plant as well as close-up images of unique characteristics such as stems, leaves, flowers, fruits, and/or seeds.
2. If possible, include objects such as a coin or ruler to show scale of plant.
3. High quality photographs that are clear and in focus are most beneficial. Keep background as simple and uncluttered as possible and include only one species of plant in the photographs to eliminate any misinterpretation.

.. and justice for all

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