

Plant Pathology Lab Sample Submission Guidelines

Plant Industry Division



This guideline is based on the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) Plant Pathology Lab (PPL) form 012-001 appendix.

Sample quality

Diagnoses of plant diseases and disorders based on submitted plant samples are only as good as the plant specimen and information submitted. It is difficult to make an accurate diagnosis from an inadequate, irrelevant, dried or completely dead plant sample. A sample submitted for diagnosis must be fresh and arrive in good condition.

Sample form

Please use the [Plant Sample Submission Form \(NDA-PPL-Form-012-001\)](#) when submitting samples. Providing as much information on the form as possible will help ensure an accurate diagnosis. Be sure to enter your email address clearly in order to receive the diagnostic results. If no email is provided, please enter your fax number or mailing address.

Sample collection and submission

The NDA PPL provides with diagnostic services to the public. To ensure timely and accurate service, please use the following instructions before samples are sent. Samples cannot be processed without a [Plant Sample Submission Form](#).

1. Submit intact plants with root system if possible, especially for small plants that may be systemically infected. Intact plants can be obtained by digging (NOT pulling) the whole plant out from soil with a small amount of soil attached to the roots.
2. If plants are too big to be submitted, collect various parts of plants with different symptoms. The more you collect, the better the samples.
3. Whenever possible, include a healthy plant, or plant parts of the same kind as the diseased plant being submitted. This is known as a "blank" and provides a comparative sample.
4. Leaves and/or stems should be placed and enclosed in a plastic bag without added moisture.
5. Roots should always be submitted with some natural soil around them, and placed in a plastic bag.
6. Fruit or fleshy specimens should be wrapped in paper separately and placed in a plastic bag without added moisture.
7. Turf grass samples should be collected at disease development stage and must be from the marginal zone of the affected area, or the edge of disease spot (patch). Include both healthy and diseased plants. Sample should be about three inches by six inches, about three inches deep, and placed in a plastic bag.
8. Tree samples should be submitted with a written description of disease history.
9. Collect samples from several plants to obtain representative samples of the disease. Be sure each sample is large enough to show the symptom.
10. Each sample should be labeled with your name, sample number (if you are submitting multiple samples) and other information for sample identification.

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11. Collect samples immediately before shipping or sending, or keep them in a refrigerator until sending.
12. Fill the [Plant Sample Submission Form \(NDA-PPL-Form-012-001\)](#) to provide all necessary information such as plant name, affected parts, symptom description, etc.
13. Pack all samples in a sturdy box and mail the sample as quickly as possible. If the sample cannot be mailed immediately, keep it refrigerated. Samples can be dropped directly or mailed to the Plant Pathology Lab, located at 405 S. 21st Street, Sparks, NV 89431.