

Horticulture Diagnostic Laboratory



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
of Suffolk County
www.ccesuffolk.org

Extension Education Center
423 Griffing Ave, Ste 100
Riverhead, NY 11901-3071
631-727-4126

Bayard Cutting Arboretum
Montauk Hwy
Great River, NY 11739
631-581-4223



Herbaceous Plant (Flowers) & Ornamental Grass Problem — Submission Form

Fee: \$7.00 per sample

Make checks payable to *Cornell Cooperative Extension—Suffolk County*

Date _____

Office Use Only

Name _____

Phone (____) _____

of Samples _____

Address _____

Send report via email
(Print Legibly)

Amount Paid _____

CCE Staff _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Plant name _____ (Check) Annual Perennial Biennial Bulb Ornamental Grass **Is problem getting worse?** YES NO

Visual Symptoms Observed (Check)

Wilting	Leaf spots	Brown leaves	Yellow leaves	Leaf edge brown/yellow	Signs of insects (describe)	Leaves dropping	No flowers	Flowers Drop Off	Distorted leaves or stems	Holes in leaves

Did you submit a soil sample(s) YES NO

How long has plant been in its present location?

Weeks	Months	Years

Plant size

Height	Width

Other or further description (explain):

Age of plant: _____

Site (Check)

In landscape bed	In planter	In raised bed	In container	On berm	Sea-shore	Slope	Full Sun	Shade	Partial shade	Wet soil	Dry soil	Windy

Watering (Check)

Once per: Day Week other _____

How long? ___ min. ___ hr. or ___ inches.

When did problem first start?

Distribution of Problem (Check)

New growth	Old growth	Entire plant	Top	Bottom	Random

Space to describe problem or provide more information:

How To Select and Submit Herbaceous Plant & Ornamental Grass Problem Samples

1. Diagnosis of plant problems can not be completed while you wait—reports are sent out by mail or via email.

2. Taking a sample:

- It is important to select samples that show the symptoms you are seeing and this may require you to prune off leaves, stems, etc. that you may not necessarily want to remove due to the growth habits of the individual plant. If possible entire small plants with roots can be submitted.
- If possible take more than one sample to show different stages of symptom development. Select samples that show both healthy tissue and tissue exhibiting symptoms. On stems w/ symptoms of cankers or oozing include both the healthy tissue and the canker or oozing symptoms.
- Depending on the symptoms prune off individual leaves, stems, branches, flowers, fruits, etc.
- Obtain the sample(s) just prior to shipping to or dropping off at one of the Labs to ensure the sample is fresh. Obtaining samples when symptoms first start to show is important. Dried out, dead leaves, stems, etc. are difficult if not impossible to diagnose.
- If insects are submitted with samples **Do Not Use Tape** to secure them to paper. Place dry insects in a sturdy container stuffed with cotton or paper to prevent damage. Soft bodied insects should be placed in an unbreakable, leak proof container. You can add a small amount of rubbing alcohol to the container.

3. Submit a soil sample for pH testing:

- If you have not had the soil pH tested recently it may be advisable to consider having this done along with the turf sample diagnosis. Instructions for having soil pH tested is available from Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) directly or on the CCE [web site](#).

4. Packing/Shipping

- Most samples arrive in good condition if they are placed into a plastic zip-lock or similar bag.
- Do not add water since this will cause the samples to decay during shipment.
- Select a strong container, such as a corrugated box, that will not crush in transit. Depending on the samples sent a padded type envelope will also work. Avoid sending samples in regular envelopes since they often arrive crushed and difficult if not impossible to diagnose.
- Use a layer of appropriate packing material (i.e. Styrofoam, crushed paper, packing peanuts, etc.) on the bottom of the box. Place the sample on top of this material and then fill in the space above the sample with more packing material to prevent the samples from moving during transit.
- Mail samples early in the week.
- Include this completed data form with your sample.
- If you are not shipping the sample, but rather dropping it off — then placing the sample in a plastic bag works fine.

5. Payment/Mailing Address

- The fee for diagnosis is \$7.00 per sample. Payment is due when dropping off samples or should be included with samples that are shipped.
- You may bring or mail your sample to one of the Labs listed on the front page. Both Labs have “drop off” boxes for after hour, weekend or holiday drop off. The drop off box at the Riverhead office is located at the rear door entrance.