

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



Indoor Plant Problem - Submission Form

Fee: \$7.00 per sample

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date _____

Phone (____) _____

Send report via email (*Print Legibly*)

Office Use Only

of Samples _____

Amount Paid _____

CCE Staff _____

Plant name _____ When was problem first noticed? _____ Is the problem getting worse? YES NO

Visual Symptoms Observed (<i>Check</i>)											Distribution of Problem (<i>Check</i>)		
Wilt- ing	Leaf spots	Brown leaves	Yellow leaves	Leaf edge/tips brown/yellow	Leaves dropping	No flowers	Signs of insects (describe)	Holes in leaves	Webbing on leaves/stems	Leaves sticky	New growth	Old growth	Entire plant

Growing Conditions (<i>Check</i>)							Watering (<i>Check</i>)			How long have you had this plant?		
Greenhouse or sunroom	Near door	Near window	Near radiator	Moved indoors	Moved outdoors	Repotted recently	Daily	Weekly	Other (describe).	Weeks	Months	Years

Light Source (<i>Check</i>)						Container Type (<i>Check</i>)					Do other plants have the same problem? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Window				Florescent	Incandescent	Plastic	Clay	Other (describe).	Size (diameter)	Drainage Holes?	
North	South	East	West	Continuous daily light _____ Hours	Continuous daily light _____ Hours			_____ inches	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		

Did you submit a soil sample(s)? YES NO Please use this space to describe the problem or provide more information: _____

How To Select and Submit Indoor Plant 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 growth habits of many indoor plants
- If possible take more than one sample to show different stages of symptom development.
- Depending on the symptoms prune off individual leaves, individual stems with leaves, flowers, 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. 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—then placing the sample in a plastic bag works fine.

4. 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.