

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



Lawn Problem - Submission Form

Fee: \$10.00 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 _____

Date/month problem first occurred. _____ Is the problem getting worse? YES NO Did you submit a soil samples(s)? YES NO

Visual Symptoms Observed (<i>Check</i>)						
Distinct Patch(es)	Leaf Spots	Brown Leaves	Yellow Leaves	Purple Leaves	General Thinning	Complete Kill

Distribution of Problem (<i>Check</i>)		
Wide Spread	Localized Area	Scattered

Site Condition (<i>Check</i>)			
Compacted	Heavy Traffic	Near Trees	Sloped

Irrigation (<i>Fill in</i>)				
Frequency per week	Amount (inches)	Amount min./hrs.	Time of day	Irrigation System?
				<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

Mowing (<i>Fill in</i>)	
Height (inches)	Frequency per week

Sunlight Exposure (<i>Check</i>)		
Full Sun	Partial Sun	Shaded

Soil Drainage (<i>Check</i>)		
Good	Medium	Poor

Fertilizer(s) Applied This Season

Date _____ Product _____

Limestone Applied This Season

Date _____ Product _____

Fungicide/Insecticide/Herbicides Applied Last 2 Months

Date _____ Product(s) _____

Please use this space to describe the problem or provide more information: _____

How To Select and Submit Lawn Problem Samples

1. Diagnosis of lawn 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 turf samples from the TRANSITION zone - this is the area where the healthy grass and the unhealthy grass meet. In most cases a sample that includes about 1/3 unhealthy and 2/3 healthy grass will work well.
- If possible take more than one sample to show different stages of symptom development.
- Samples should be about 6 inches (length) X 6 inches (width) X 2 or 3 inches (depth).
- 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 turf samples 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

- With a piece of aluminum foil securely wrap the roots and soil on the bottom of the sample. Avoid wrapping the actual grass blades on the top of the sample with foil, plastic, etc. since this will cause this portion of the sample to decay rapidly.
- Select a strong container, such as a corrugated box, that will not crush in transit.
- 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** but rather dropping off a sample you may place the sample in a strong box. There is no need to wrap the roots and soil.

5. Payment/Mailing Address

- The fee for diagnosis is \$10.00 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.