



## Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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### Submitting Plant Samples

The most important thing when submitting a plant sample for diagnosis is to know what portions of the plant are necessary for an accurate diagnosis. A plant that is wilted almost always has a root or vascular problem. If it is an annual flower, or a vegetable, or a perennial, submit the entire plant instead of just leaves. For fruits or vegetables, such as a potato tuber, place the fruit in crumpled newspaper or a paper sack. Avoid sealing fruit or vegetables tightly in a plastic bag as they often arrive rotted and unrecognizable. Likewise, a tree or shrub that is completely wilted often has a root issue. If it is a small, recently planted tree or shrub, submit the entire plant even if it must be cut in pieces to fit in a box. If it is a mature tree or shrub, submit some roots from two opposite sides of the plant plus some affected limbs with leaves. If the plant is not wilted and the only complaint is leaf spots, then submit the spotted leaves. Place leaves between DRY paper towels and place in an unsealed baggie. If there is dieback on a branch or twig, submit the branch that has both dieback and green tissue. For turf, collect a sample at least 6 inches (15cm) in diameter from where the dying grass meets the green grass. Include roots and soil.

### Bad sample of branch dieback on shrub



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas  
Cooperative Extension

### Good sample of branch dieback on shrub



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas  
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### **Bad sample of tree death**



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

### **Bad sample of crown dieback**



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

### **Good sample of tree death**



Photo by Randy Cyr, Greentree, Bugwood.org

### **Good sample of crown dieback**



Photo by Clemson University, USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series

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### **Bad sample of wilt on asparagus**



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

### **Bad sample of wilt on annuals**



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

### **Good sample of wilt on asparagus**



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

### **Good sample of wilt on annuals**



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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## Bad sample of turf



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

This bulletin from the Cooperative Extension Plant Health Clinic (Plant Disease Clinic) is an electronic update about diseases and other problems observed in our lab each month. Input from everybody interested in plants is welcome and appreciated.

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## Good sample of turf



Photo by Mary Ann Hansen, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Bugwood.org

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