

SMALL FRUIT SAMPLE SUBMISSION GUIDE

The accuracy of the testing results will depend largely upon the quality of the sample received, the receipt of sufficient quantity of usable material for testing, and whether or not the tissue submitted is representative of the population being tested.

Sampling:

- Samples must be submitted fresh and should be collected and shipped no later than Tuesday using an overnight delivery service.
- Try to collect samples that are representative of the range of symptoms and stages of disease observed in the field. Tissue must still be living to be used for testing, no senescing, dead or decayed material.
- Select 5 leaves of green or living tissue closest to the symptoms, try to collect from different parts of the affected plant to account for any uneven distribution of the pathogen. If the leaves are quite small, include extra tissue to ensure there is sufficient volume for testing.
- Use new Ziploc sandwich or vegetable bags to collect your samples to avoid any cross-contamination of the sample. Do not mix different samples in the same submission bag and label the sample number (e.g., #1, #2, #3, etc.) clearly on the bottom right corner of the bag with indelible marker to identify each separate sample.
- Organize your samples consecutively into groups of 10-20 bags (e.g., Samples #1-20, Samples #21-40, etc.) by using 1 staple or clip on the top left corner to secure each group. This ensures that the samples arrive in the order that they will be tested and can be processed without further delay. Please do not throw loose sample bags in random order into a box for shipping. Number and label your samples clearly and secure them in order to ensure that all samples can be identified and accounted for accurately.
- Include a [Sample Submission Form](#) with your samples. Note any information that may be pertinent to diagnosis such as a description of the symptoms, growth conditions, pesticide use, insect vectors that may be present, or anything else you think might be important. Please take the time to write clearly or type the information. If we cannot read it to identify the sample we cannot record or test it.

The liability of Phyto Diagnostic Company Limited is limited to the cost of the services supplied and paid for. Failure to recover or identify a pathogen or microorganism in a sample does not imply that a field or commodity represented by the sample given is free of the pathogen. Due to the uneven distribution and/or seasonal fluctuation of pathogen concentrations in plant tissue and/or sampling method used, Phyto Diagnostics Company Limited does not guarantee, warrant or imply, as a result of negative test results, freedom of infection by a pathogen in the sample or plant from which the sample originated. By submitting a sample to Phyto Diagnostics Company Limited for testing, the customer acknowledges and accepts the limits of this liability and also acknowledges that Phyto Diagnostics Company Limited makes no warranty of any kind, expressed or implied.

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Packing:

- Keep tissue samples dry by avoiding collection in the rain and/or including paper towel to soak up excess moisture and/or using ventilated bags (e.g., vegetable Ziploc bags or perforated bags). Please do not ship moist samples in airtight bags; samples that have decayed in transit cannot be used for testing.
- If you are unable to ship your samples directly after collection, store them at 4°C, taking care not to freeze or expose them to heat.

Shipping:

- Package and ship samples carefully to avoid deterioration in transit, making sure to limit the amount of moisture the sample is exposed to.
- Protect against crushing, freezing or overheating by packaging your samples securely. Do not enclose an icepack with your samples, often it will cause degradation of the sample by either freezing or crushing the tissues in transit.
- Use an overnight delivery service to maintain sample integrity, especially when shipping perishable samples that may be destroyed in transit by exposure to prolonged shipping time and extreme hot or cold temperatures.
- Ship early in the week (no later than Tuesday) to avoid having perishable samples sit over weekends or holidays. Samples that do not arrive fresh and in good condition cannot be used for testing and will have to be resubmitted.
- Contact us by phone or email to let us know your samples will be arriving to minimize any processing delays.

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