

## Sample Collection and Submission Instructions:

Samples that exhibit early symptom development and have plant parts that are still partially alive (green) offer the best quality samples for accurate plant disease diagnosis. Samples that are totally necrotic, dry, and long dead are not adequate for an accurate diagnosis. Dead tissue is essentially a food source for many saprophytic microbes, hence determining the primary pathogen is often impossible. The best samples arriving at the clinic represent early stages of disease development (i.e. before the plant part is totally necrotic or mush). Samples should be accompanied by a complete data form, which can be found here [Sample Submission Form](#) and is available at our center.

Here are some additional guidelines for submitting plant samples:

1. Take samples before applying pesticides, otherwise the ability to recover pathogens may be limited. Submit generous amounts of plant material representing a range of symptoms. If possible, submit whole plants. Foliar symptom can be an indicator of root or crown issues.
2. Don't add water or pack a sample that is wet.
3. Keep sample refrigerated after collection until they are submitted. After collecting good samples, do not ruin them by allowing them to bake in the sun or on the back seat of a car prior to submission.
4. Please mark sample packages with a "warning" if sample contains thorns or spines.
5. All samples must be accompanied with a completed [Sample Submission Form](#). These forms are available at the county Extension offices, on-line, or at the center. Give complete information on the front page only of the form and keep the form separate from the sample. You are encouraged to include any pertinent information under the remarks area of the form. The more information available, the more likely a problem can be associated with possible causes.
6. Remember to note recent pesticide history on the Sample Submission Form accompanying the sample.
7. We encourage all samples submitted by mail to be shipped overnight or 2-day priority mail to avoid sample deterioration during shipping.
8. Mail samples early in the week to arrive by Thursday to avoid a weekend layover in the post office and allow time for processing in the lab.

Once your sample is submitted, you will be issued a **Sample Number** to be referenced for results. It may take up to a week for results from our lab to be emailed.

Shipping Address: University of Florida – GCREC  
**ATTN: Plant Diagnostic Clinic**  
14625 C.R. 672  
Wimauma, FL 33598

Website: <https://gcrec.ifas.ufl.edu/plant-clinic/>

Phone Number: (813) 419-6599