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.

**Submitting plant samples**

The most important thing to remember 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 vegetable, or a perennial submit the entire plant instead of just leaves. For fruit 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 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 has to 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 by all means 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 in diameter from where dying grass meets the green grass. Include roots and soil.

**Bad sample of branch dieback on shrub**

![Bad sample of branch dieback on shrub](image)

Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

**Good sample of branch dieback on shrub**

![Good sample of branch dieback on shrub](image)

Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

**Bad sample of tree death**

![Bad sample of tree death](image)

Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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Good sample of tree death

Bad sample of crown dieback

Good sample of crown dieback

Bad sample of wilt on asparagus

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Good sample of wilt on asparagus

Good sample of wilt on annuals

Bad sample of wilt on annuals

Bad sample of turf

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Good sample of turf

Request for help from Dr. Robbins:

Root knot nematode populations are needed for our Arkansas species study. I am a nematologist in the department of Plant Pathology in Fayetteville. My student and I are trying to amass populations of as many species of Root knot nematode (Meloidogyne sp.) as possible for species identification using molecular techniques. At present no root knot species in Arkansas have been identified using molecular technology. We are interested in receiving populations from home gardens, shrubs, flowers, trees and grasses. For samples we need about a pint of soil and feeder roots in a sealed plastic bag that is plainly identified by plant host, location (City County, physical address, collector and date of collection). Please send samples to us at the follow address:

Dr. Robert Robbins
Cralley-Warren Research Center
2601 N. Young Ave
Fayetteville, AR 72701
Phone 479-575-2555
Fax 479-575-3348
Email: rrobbin@uark.edu

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