

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



Vegetable Problem — Submission Form

Fee: \$8.00 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 _____

Plant name _____ When did problem first start? _____ Is problem getting worse? YES NO

Visual Symptoms Observed (Check)									Did you submit a soil sample(s)? YES NO					
Wilt- ing	Leaf spots	Brown leaves	Yellow leaves	Leaf edge brown/yellow	Signs of insects (describe)	Holes in leaves	Leaves dropping off	No flowers	Flowers falling off	No fruit	Fruit drop- ping off	Fruit rotting	Spots on fruit	Insects in fruit

Other or further description (explain):

Site (Check)										Number of hours of continuous daily sunlight	How long has plant been in garden?		Vegetable was started from	
In garden	In planter	In raised bed	In a container	Full Sun	Shade	Partial shade	Wet soil	Dry soil	Windy spot		_____ Weeks	_____ Months	Seed	Transplant
										_____ Hours				

Distribution of Problem (Check)							Watering (Check)
New growth	Old growth	Entire plant	One side	Top	Bot- tom	Random	Once per: Day Week other _____
							How long? ___ min. ___ hr. or ___ inches.

Use this space to provide more information:

How To Select and Submit Vegetable Problem Samples

1. Diagnosis of plant 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 samples that show the symptoms you are seeing and this may require you to prune off leaves, stems, fruit, etc. that you may not necessarily want to remove due to the growth habits of the individual plant. If possible entire small plants with roots can be submitted.
- If possible take more than one sample to show different stages of symptom development. Select samples that show both healthy tissue and tissue exhibiting symptoms. On stems w/ symptoms of cankers or oozing include both the healthy tissue and the canker or oozing symptoms.
- Depending on the symptoms prune off individual leaves, stems, branches, flowers, fruits, etc.
- 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 leaves, stems, etc. 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

- Most samples arrive in good condition if they are placed into a plastic zip-lock or similar bag. With actual fruit samples, especially if the tissue has been wounded, or started to rot you may want to try placing such fruit in dry newspaper or paper towels instead of plastic bags.
- Do not add water since this will cause the samples to decay during shipment.
- Select a strong container, such as a corrugated box, that will not crush in transit. Depending on the samples sent a padded type envelope will also work. Avoid sending samples in regular envelopes since they often arrive crushed and difficult if not impossible to diagnose.
- 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 the sample, but rather dropping it off — then placing the sample in a plastic bag works fine.

5. Payment/Mailing Address

- The fee for diagnosis is \$8.00 per sample. Payment is due when dropping off samples or should be included with samples that are shipped.
- You may bring your sample to one of the Labs listed on the front page or mail to Riverhead only. 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.