Form 106 Sampling for Horticultural Disease Diagnosis

Please follow these guidelines to ensure you send the most appropriate plant or soil samples for accurate and timely disease diagnosis.

* Take fresh samples, keep them cool and out of direct sunlight.
* Label sample bags clearly with a permanent marker.
* Submit affected and unaffected plants packaged and labelled separately (e.g. inside, outside and boundary of affected areas).
* For plants up to 1 m high, submit at least three whole plants, complete with soil, or 20 seedlings. For plants over 1 m high, separate into top and bottom components before submitting.
* Send samples as per instructions below.
* Avoid sending samples on a Thursday or Fridayotherwise refrigerate until despatched the following week.
* Label the parcel‘Urgent plant samples - keep cool’.
* Complete the Horticultural Plant Disease Diagnosis Submission Form.
* Complete a separate form for each species.

**Whole plant or root samples**

Nursery plants

* Submit whole plants in pots and tubes.
* Submit both healthy and unthrifty plants.

Field plants

* Submit whole plants, unless it is clearly a leaf, stem or fruit disease.
* Dig up plants so that the roots remain intact. Do not pull the plants from the soil.
* Leave the soil on the roots to keep the plants alive during transit. Washed roots will rot while in transit.
* Seal roots and soil in a plastic bag near the base of the plants. Enclose the whole sample inside another plastic bag.

**Leaf samples**

Fungal / bacterial diseases

* Wrap leaves in paper and enclose in a paper envelope or unsealed plastic bag.

Viral diseases

* For vegetative plants collect new growth or whole shoots.
* For potatoes, shoots are preferable to tubers.
* For grapevines collect dormant canes instead of leaves.
* Seal leaf samples immediately in a plastic bag to prevent wilting.
* Package to avoid leaves getting squashed.

**Soil samples for detection of nematodes**

Pre-planting (moist soils)

* Use a soil corer (e.g. pogo stick) to sample 0-20 cm (0-8").
* Remove surface debris in the area to be sampled.
* Sample soil for nematodes on a grid pattern, taking 20 samples per hectare, 500 g per sample.
* If a result for each sample is required seal samples separately in plastic bags. Label each bag. Otherwise mix all soil samples thoroughly but gently and take a 500g sample from this mix, seal sample in a plastic bag and label.
* Soil samples from tropical and subtropical areas should be stored at 10°C, but soil samples from other areas can be refrigerated.
* Do not allow temperature of any samples to rise above 25°C during transit.

Existing plants

* Use a soil corer or narrow shovel to sample to a depth of 20 cm.
* Remove surface debris from around the base of the plant.
* Collect 500 g of soil from the root zone of the plant.
* Take soil from three unthrifty plants and from one healthy plant.
* Seal samples separately in plastic bags. Label each bag.

**Soil samples for detection of *Phytophthora* (Dieback)**

Pre-planting

* Follow sampling procedure outlined above for nematodes (pre-planting). However, samples can be refrigerated.

Existing plants

* Follow sampling procedure outlined above for nematodes (existing plants).
* Sample from three plants showing dieback symptoms and from one healthy plant.

Free Delivery Instructions

Despatch samples in enclosed postal bag at any WA Post Office.

If not using the AGWEST Plant Laboratories despatch bag, address your sample to:

AGWEST Plant Laboratories  
Department of Agriculture and Food  
Reply Paid 83377

3 Baron-Hay Court  
South Perth WA 6151

This form is available on the APL home page [**agric.wa.gov.au/agwestplantlabs**](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/agwestplantlabs)