

Tree (Non-Palm) Sample Collection Guidelines

1) Collect and Store the Sample



Whole Tree and site



Symptomatic Area



Close up



Root Flare

- Before collecting the sample, please take photos of the whole tree, symptomatic tissue, root flare, and the surrounding landscape. See above for examples of good photos to take. Send the photos via email to pdca@ifas.ufl.edu.
- Trace symptomatic tissue back to main branch and check for cankers (sunken areas of dead or dying tissue), wounds, insect holes, and any other abnormalities. Take photos of these areas.
- Collect plant tissue for submission where symptomatic/dead tissue meets healthy tissue, known as the transition zone (aiming for 20% being dead tissue and 80% or more being living tissue). The sick-healthy part of this area is where we will find the pathogens that cause disease.
- If the tree is defoliating and has tip dieback, it could be an indication of a root issue. Make sure to include images of the root flare and to include information about irrigation, soil type, and anything applied to lawn or mulch within 10 feet of the drip line.
- Submit generous amounts of plant material representing a range of symptoms seen. Keep samples refrigerated after collection until they are submitted. We are only able to test/process a sample with adequate living tissue.
- Do not add water or pack a sample that is wet. Do not mix samples in the same submission bag. Moisture from root samples will contribute to the decay of foliage samples if they are mixed.

2) Fill Out the Submission Form

- For non-palm tree samples, please fill out the general sample submission form. All samples must be accompanied with this complete Sample Submission Form.

- Please provide as much information as possible. Remember to note the recent pesticide history from the past 4-6 weeks. You are encouraged to include any other pertinent information in addition to that on the form.
- If no payment information is provided on the form or with the sample, the submitter or person indicated in billing section will be invoiced \$40 via email. Complete payment is due before a report can be provided.
- Please place the submission form in a separate bag than the sample tissue to prevent degradation of the form.

3) Send the Sample Promptly

- Ship or deliver samples directly from the grower/site to the UF PDC. It is recommended to use an overnight courier service with sample tracking to retain sample quality and expedite sample processing.
- Mail samples early in the week to avoid the weekend layover in shipping.
- Samples are processed on a first come, first served basis in most cases. The exception to this rule is our rush service. Rush services include the sample(s) being processed immediately upon delivery, moved to the front of the sample line, and communication within 2 business days to report preliminary results. There is a flat fee of \$50 added per sample. Please see our price sheet for more information.