

Turfgrass Sample Collection Guidelines

1) Collect and Store the Sample

- Samples should be collected prior to fungicide applications.
- Before collecting the sample, please take photos of the lawn symptom distribution and close ups of the symptoms. See the photos to the right for examples of good photos to take. Send the photos via email to pdc@ifas.ufl.edu
- Locate an area where the healthy part of the lawn turns symptomatic and/or dead. Using a cup cutter or a spade, cut out a 6"x6" section of the area, making sure at least 80% collected is symptomatic, living tissue. Two cup cutter plugs are recommended for amenity turf such as golf courses. Include leaves, stolons, roots, and keep the soil on the roots to maintain field moisture.
- Aeration cores mowing clippings are not sufficient, do not send these as samples.
- Once collected, samples should be wrapped in aluminum foil to keep the soil on the roots and maintain sample integrity, then sealed in plastic bags and padded with dry newspaper, paper towel, etc. in a sealed, sturdy box.
- Submit generous amount of living plant material. Keep samples refrigerated after collection until they are shipped, up to two days from collection. We are unable to process dead samples.



Lawn Distribution



Close Up



Sufficient Sample



Insufficient Sample

2) Fill Out the Submission Form

- If testing for unknown cause of decline is needed, use the General Sample Submission form (for residential and landscape turf) or Rapid Turfgrass Diagnostic Service (for amenity turf). If SCMV testing is needed, indicate in the notes section of the General or RTDS submission form. If you are only wanting to test for SCMV, fill out the SCMV- only form.
- Our current pricing is as follows:
\$40 SCMV only | \$40 General only | \$60 General + SCMV | \$75 RTDS only | \$95 RTDS + SCMV.
Please see our price sheet for other pricing information.

- All samples must be accompanied by our 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 will be invoiced 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 immediately after collecting them 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.