

Collecting a Turf Sample for Plant Disease Diagnosis

Collect a 4" to 6" sample from the leading edge of a problem including roots and soil to a depth of at least 2" and foliage showing the symptoms. Keep the sample moist and cool, but do not water or seal tightly in plastic. Wrap the sample in several layers of newspaper and pack it snugly in a sturdy box. Take a sample before spraying a fungicide. It is often difficult to make an accurate diagnosis after a fungicide has been applied. Accurate disease diagnosis requires both a representative sample and sufficient information about the cultural practices and environmental conditions, therefore, a turf disease case history should be submitted with the sample. For full details on submitting a turf sample, contact your local cooperative extension office.