

What are the diagnostic charges?

Fee schedule		
	In-state	Out-of-state
Diagnostic Services		
Routine diagnosis	\$20	\$40
ELISA and Biolog	\$30	\$60
Molecular diagnosis (PCR)	\$75	\$100
Rapid turfgrass diagnosis	\$75	\$100

Make check payable to *LSU AgCenter PDC*. Special diagnostic services also are available through the center. Please call our office to get more information about these services.

Mail samples to:

LSU AgCenter Plant Diagnostic Center
302 Life Sciences, LSU
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

For more information, contact:

Dr. Raghuwinder Singh
rsingh@agcenter.lsu.edu
Phone 225-578-4562
Fax: 225-578-1415

LSUAgCenter.com/PlantDiagnostics

Need information?

The center website contains a variety of useful information, including fact sheets, the popular disease image gallery, the Louisiana Plant Disease Management Guide, the Louisiana Insect Pest Management Guide, the Louisiana Suggested Chemical Weed Management Guide and the Louisiana Lawns Best Management Practices as well as links to other websites of interest. Please check back often, since we continually strive to provide you with new information to help solve your "growing pains."

LSU AgCenter Plant Diagnostic Center Overview

The Plant Diagnostic Center is a service provided by the LSU AgCenter and is supported by its Department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology.

The center is located in the Life Sciences Building (Room 436) behind the LSU Student Union (corner of Highland Road and South Campus Drive) on the LSU campus in Baton Rouge.



LSUAgCenter.com/PlantDiagnostics

LSU AgCenter

William B. Richardson, Chancellor
Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station
John Russin, Vice Chancellor and Director
Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service
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The LSU AgCenter provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.



LSU AgCenter
Plant Diagnostic
Center

Solving your plant health problems



LSUAgCenter.com/PlantDiagnostics

Have a problem with your plants? We can help! Plants are subject to diseases just as we are. Plant health problems are caused by a variety of plant pathogens, nematodes, insect pests and mites. Weeds compete with your crops for space, sunlight and nutrients. Adverse environmental conditions also can contribute to plant health problems. Plant problems caused by different agents may exhibit similar symptoms, or those caused by similar agents may show different symptoms. Misdiagnosis of these problems may add to the losses, significantly increase cost of production and decrease profits. Accurate and rapid diagnosis is required for selecting the best management practices at the most effective time. Before you attempt to correct a problem, you must first determine its cause. That's where we can help.



What is LSU AgCenter Plant Diagnostic Center? The Plant Diagnostic Center is a one-stop shop for all your plant health problems. Services available through the center include plant disease diagnosis (biotic and abiotic causes), insect and mite diagnosis/identification (plant related only), nematode diagnosis/identification and weed identification. The staff of the Plant Diagnostic Center has the training and experience to help you solve your problems (at least those associated with your unhealthy plants). Before you submit a sample, however, we suggest you contact your local LSU AgCenter extension agent. Agents are familiar with many of the common plant problems that we encounter and can help evaluate the situation as well as collect and submit the appropriate samples.



Benefits of the LSU AgCenter

Plant Diagnostic Center

- One-stop shopping for all your plant health problems.
- Provides accurate diagnosis of the cause of the problem. This will help you to select the best management practice to solve the problem.
- Provides rapid diagnosis at early stages of the cause of the problem, allowing implementation of best management at the most effective time.
- Delivers best management practices for long-term management.
- Provides up-to-date information on use of chemical control methods.
- Provides rapid turfgrass diagnostic service to the Louisiana turfgrass industry.

How to collect and submit samples For us to help you, you must help us. Accurate diagnosis requires accurate information about the problem, including a detailed description of the symptoms and how they developed. In addition, a "good," fresh sample is a must! A good sample generally consists of plant materials showing all phases of disease development and includes plant parts with both healthy and diseased tissue. (See example.) We usually find the pathogen at the boundary between them. Completely dead leaves, branches and plants or rotten fruit generally are not useful, but they may be included as part of the sample.



Example of a good plant sample.

Symptoms

Symptoms such as yellowing, wilting or dieback that are visible over much of the plant indicate you may need to do some digging to get to the root of the problem – literally. Dig (do not pull) the plant from the ground and examine the roots. If roots are dark, discolored and rotted, place them in a plastic bag along with the



soil from which you took them. Send as many roots as possible. Remember, do not take root samples from plants that are completely dead, and do not let the roots dry out!

Turf

For turf, take samples from areas with both healthy and diseased grass, generally at the edges of patches. Again, dig up the grass and include foliage, roots and soil in the sample. Once you collect a sample, be sure to package it so it doesn't dry out before it reaches us – but don't add water! We prefer you place samples in plastic bags rather than paper bags and submit them as soon after you collect them as possible.

Nematodes

Check our website for information about collecting and submitting nematode samples.

Pests

For insect pest and mite samples, collect the infested part of the plant and place it in the plastic bag.

Weeds

For weed identification, send in the whole plant with roots attached and soil intact. Weeds can be packed like other plant samples. (See example at left.)



More information on how to collect and submit samples can be found on the center website:

LSUAgCenter.com/PlantDiagnostics