

## How To Send A Turfgrass Sample To The University Of Maryland Plant Diagnostic Lab

The procedures outlined below are for submission of turfgrass disease samples from golf courses, athletic fields or other commercial turfgrass sites. All samples are to be submitted to Dr. Karen Rane in the Plant Diagnostic Laboratory. Dr. Rane ([rane@umd.edu](mailto:rane@umd.edu)) will coordinate diagnostics and recommendations with Dr. Peter Dernoeden ([pd@umd.edu](mailto:pd@umd.edu)).

1. Always call (301-405-1611) PRIOR TO SENDING samples. The diagnostic lab relies on the expertise of a limited number of trained individuals. In the event that these individuals will be out of the office for an extended period of time, samples will not be processed. A phone message will be regularly updated indicating when the diagnostician will be available to receive samples.
2. Samples should be collected using a cup cutter (4" diameter). Plugs should be taken from the active edge of a diseased area and should contain approximately 40% healthy and 60% symptomatic turf. The sample should contain **no more than a 2" depth of soil**.
3. The diagnostic form should be completed in full to ensure that we have all of the available information necessary to make an accurate and rapid diagnosis. The specimen submission form can be obtained from [plantclinic.umd.edu](http://plantclinic.umd.edu).
4. Cup cutter plugs should be WRAPPED in a moist paper towel and then in aluminum foil to ensure that the soil does not mix with the foliage. Properly wrapped samples should be packed tightly in a sturdy box and sealed tight to prevent tumbling of the sample and the mixing of soil with foliage.
5. Send by NEXT DAY DELIVERY or HAND DELIVER for arrival MONDAY through THURSDAY. Samples taking more than one day to arrive will likely be beyond the point of an accurate diagnosis. Arrival by Thursday allows needed time for sample incubation in the lab. Samples arriving in poor condition will not be processed and the submitter will be asked to send a fresh sample. Walk-ins are welcome, but always call first.
6. **Additional information** on how to properly collect turfgrass samples for disease diagnosis and parasitic nematode assay can be found at [mdturfCouncil.org](http://mdturfCouncil.org). After you logged on, click on "Maryland Extension Publications" and then click on TT-3 "Collecting and Shipping Turfgrass Samples for Disease Diagnosis."

**Address for Mailing Samples:** Plant Diagnostic Lab,  
Dept. of Entomology  
3171 Plant Science Building  
University of MD  
College Park, MD 20742

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