

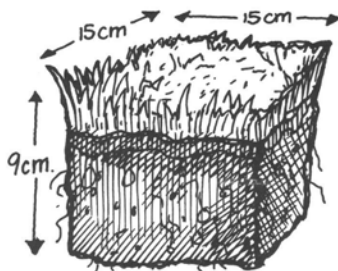
HOW TO Submit A Turf Sample For Disease Identification

by
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Often disease problems are difficult to diagnose in the field and we must rely on specialized equipment and techniques that can only be performed in a diagnostics laboratory. If this is the case for you, then the following guidelines will help you with disease sample collection and sample submission.

Collection of Samples

Samples for disease diagnosis should be taken when the disease is active. Samples should be taken from an area which is representative of the diseased area on the edge between healthy and diseased turf. A sample should be taken before fungicide treatments are made. The sample should be roughly 15 cm square and 9 cm deep, including thatch and soil. It is not necessary to include several cm of soil with the sample. Samples taken with a soil probe are not large enough to diagnose. Another good way to take a sample is with a golf course cup changer.



Preparation of the Sample for Shipping

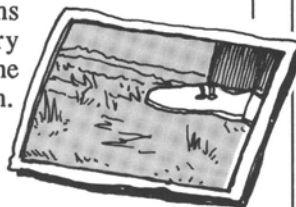
Samples should be wrapped in a newspaper or paper towel to prevent them from drying out. Never add water to a sample as this will encourage rot. For the same reason samples should not be shipped in a plastic bag. The wrapped sample should be placed in a sturdy box.



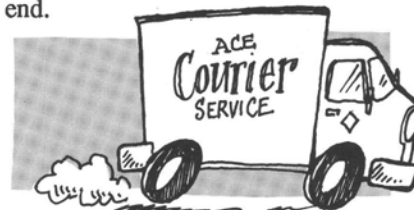
Sample Submission

The person in the diagnostic laboratory has not been lucky enough to observe the disease symptoms in the field. Because of this it is essential that the following information accompany the sample:

- 1) the grass species affected,
- 2) the extent of the damage,
- 3) a complete, accurate description of the symptoms,
- 4) date the symptoms first appeared,
- 5) the cultural practices used on the affected area - i.e., fertility, pesticide applications, etc., and
- 6) weather conditions before the damage occurred. Photographs of the symptoms can be very useful for the diagnostician.



To insure that the disease sample reaches the clinic in good condition the sample should be couriered or delivered personally. Try to avoid sending samples on Friday as they may end up sitting undelivered over the weekend.



The address to direct the sample to is:

**OMAF Pest Diagnostic Clinic,
Agriculture and Food
Laboratory Services Centre,
P.O. Box 3650,
95 Stone Road W., Zone 2,
Guelph, ON.
N1H 8J7
(519) 767-6256**

Video tapes on Turf Management

by the University of Guelph
& The Sports Turf Association

- Tape 1: Grass Selection
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(Running time averages approx. 10 minutes per tape)
- available in 8 mm and VHS format (please specify)
- \$35.00 each
- STA members receive a 20% discount in price if the tapes are ordered through the Sports Turf Office:

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Guelph, Ont. N1H 6H8
Phone (519) 763-9431
FAX (519) 766-1704

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