

Collecting and Shipping Plant Samples by Mail

1. Always select **fresh plant material** that is symptomatic but not dried out, dead, or decaying. We are unable to diagnose plants that are already dead.
2. If the **root system** is included, place a **plastic bag** around it and secure with a twist tie or rubber band to keep soil from contaminating leaves/stems.
3. Place the entire sample into a **sealed plastic bag**. A dry paper towel can be wrapped around the plant to absorb excess moisture and prevent the plant from sticking to the plastic. **Never add water to the sample for shipment.**
4. Ship in a **crush-proof container** such as a box.
5. Ship the package early in the week via **overnight delivery** to limit the time the sample is in transit. Do not ship over a weekend or holiday.