

Sample Submission_Schutter Lab_11 July 2017

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For those of you shipping samples to the Schutter Diagnostic Lab, we wanted to send out a few reminders for good sample submission. We are experiencing a lot of dried out samples that are in poor shape for diagnoses.

Do not ship on Thursdays or Fridays. Samples can rot, bake or freeze over the weekend. The mail service is very slow in several areas across the state, with samples taking up to 5 days to get to us. If it is a critical sample, consider using FedEx or UPS and ship overnight.

Mark all the plants with the appropriate paperwork. If you are sending multiple samples in the same box, make sure they are marked clearly. Boxes get thrown around in the mail, and the sample form might get dislodged. It is best to put the sample form in a separate Ziploc bag and stapled to the sample or sample bag so it doesn't get wet or ripped.

Send sufficient plant material. Send enough plant material so that an identification can be made. Whenever it is practical, include roots or the entire plant or clump of plants. Detached leaves or parts of leaves are seldom useful.

Keep some soil around the root ball and off foliage. Wrap the plant sample in plastic and secure with a rubber band around the base of the plant. **Do not add water or wet paper towels.**

Package samples in crush-proof containers. Never send leaves in a flat paper envelope –the post office machinery causes extensive damage, and the tissue rots or dries out in shipping. Also, make sure the plants are packed well within the box so they don't move around much.

Always include background information and be clear about who the report is for. If you are a crop consultant, please be clear about who to send the report to. We can also send one to the client, but need to know who to send them to.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,
The Schutter Diagnostic Lab