

Diagnostic Clinic

CAPE COD COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

The Cape Cod Cooperative Extension runs a Plant Diagnostic Clinic that has no charge for identifying insects, plants, weeds, plant diseases and other plant issues. To be able to make an accurate diagnosis adequate specimens must be submitted for identification. Below are some brief instructions for submitting specimens.

INSECTS

Insects should be placed in a small bottle or container such as a prescription bottle. It is important to include a complete specimen, specimens that are incomplete or squashed are often impossible to identify. If a specimen is to be mailed, carefully protect containers from breaking in the mail.

PLANTS

When submitting plant specimens for identification it is important to keep the specimen in good condition. It is important to collect the entire plant; roots, stem, foliage, flowers and fruit to get an accurate id. If mailing a specimen take care to protect the specimen from damage during shipping.

DISEASE

When submitting a plant specimen for disease identification it is important to send a representative sample. The sample should include healthy tissue and diseased tissue. Plants that are nearly or completely dead are impossible to diagnose. If mailing the specimen do not wrap in a wet towel.

TURF SAMPLES

When submitting a turf sample it is best to take a circular sample about 4" in diameter and 2" deep, a coffee can works well. If the problem is a spot or dead area in the turf make sure you take the sample from the edge of the area. The sample should include healthy and diseased turf. If mailing wrap the sample in foil and fit tightly in a box.

Note: If mailing samples try to mail on Monday or Tuesday so that samples arrive during the week in good condition.

Mail to: Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, P.O. Box 367, Barnstable, MA 02630

Drop off: Place sample in black mailbox at entrance; 212 Mid Tech Dr., W. Yarmouth

