

Instruction for Collecting and Preparing Tree Samples for the University of Idaho Extension Plant Clinic

1. Please fill out and include [Information for Diagnosing Tree Problems in Idaho](#) form as completely as possible and include with your sample. If a plant is worth inquiring about, it is worth the time to provide pertinent information to assist in the diagnosis.
2. Collect the plant material that is showing the symptoms. If possible, collect several samples which show the progression of symptoms from mild to severe.
3. For seedlings, collect the entire plant, including the root system if possible. Wrap in dry paper towels and place in an unsealed plastic bag. Wrap fruit in newspaper and place in a box.
4. For larger trees, send a 18" branch cutting snapped into 6" sections, including leaves, flowers, and/or fruit where appropriate. These samples may be placed in a plastic bag which is folded over loosely, but NOT sealed tightly. **DO NOT add moist paper towels** as samples will begin to mold and decompose in transit.
5. Bring samples to UI/Nez Perce County Extension office to be diagnosed and/ or forwarded to University of Idaho for further examination.
6. **Concerning our diagnosis:** Findings reported by this office are based on examination of information and plant material submitted. Not all tree problems are caused by plant pathogens or insect attacks. Other causes (unusual weather patterns, nutrient deficiencies, pesticides) are often difficult to diagnose without an on-site investigation. Some diagnoses require intensive microscopic or biochemical analysis which we do not have the facilities to accomplish.