

# Using OSU Extension Service for Pest ID

by Jacob Delahoussaye, 2012 Kerr Center Intern

*Your county extension office can assist you in identifying plant pests and diseases found on your crops. Below are two methods of submitting a plant sample to the OSU Extension Service for plant pest and disease identification.*

## Submitting a Physical Specimen

*Take good field notes before you have a pest problem. This can help with identifying the pests and preventing them in the future.*

1. Complete a Plant Disease or Insect Diagnostic Request Form. The form asks for details on previous crops as well as dates of planting and symptom appearance for the affected crop. Obtain a copy of the form from your local Extension office, or download one from: <http://entopl.okstate.edu/pddl/pdidl-form.pdf>
2. Dig up the plant that has been damaged. If multiple plants are damaged select a few that show different stages of the damage. Make sure to keep the roots intact. For tree samples make sure the branch is at least eight inches long.
3. Wrap the root-ball with a few slightly damp paper towels and bag the root-ball in a plastic bag.
4. Place the entire plant in a second plastic bag to keep it from drying out.  
*Exception: Wrap fleshy fruits beginning to decay or Mushrooms in newspaper.*
5. Once your plant is packaged you can either
  - A. Take it and the completed form to your local extension service to have it shipped free of charge.
  - B. Ship them directly to the lab.  
**Plant Disease and Insect Diagnostic Laboratory**  
**Entomology and Plant Pathology**  
**Oklahoma State University**  
**127 NRC**  
**Stillwater OK 74078-3033**

## Submitting a Digital Sample

*Field notes are essential. Records should show when crops were planted, and where.*

1. Take a picture of the whole area, including unaffected plants.
2. Once you have shown the surroundings take some close ups of the whole area that has been affected.
3. Now focus on the symptoms. Take a few close ups of the leaves, stems, roots, or other damaged plant parts.
4. Make sure to have a ruler, coin, or pencil in the pictures for scale.
5. Upload your pictures onto a computer.

6. Fill out the Plant Disease or Insect Diagnostic Request Form  
Found at: <http://entopl.okstate.edu/pddl/pdidl-form.pdf>  
You will need to print the form to fill it out.
7. Once the form is filled out, email your pictures and fax your request form to your county extension service. If you have a scanner you can email a digital copy of your request form with your pictures.