Insect and Disease Diagnosis Worksheet

Name: ________________________________ Date: __________________
Address: _______________________________________________________
City/Town: ___________________________ State: ________ Zip: __________
Home Phone: ______________ Work Phone: ______________ E-Mail: __________

1. Type of Problem:  □ Plant  □ Household  □ Yard (host unknown)

*If problem is not a plant or yard problem, skip to Question 14.*

2. Host:  □ Tree  □ Vegetable  □ Annuals  □ Perennials  □ House Plant

   Common name of host plant: _______________________________________

3. How long have you had the affected plant? ________________________

4. Plant parts affected:  □ Leaves  □ Stem  □ Roots  □ Entire Plant

   □ Flowers  □ Trunk  □ Fruit  □ Unknown

5. Symptoms noticed:

   LEAVES:  □ Yellowing  □ Holes in leaves  □ Leaf rotting or streaking

   □ Leaf spots  □ Wilt  □ Abnormal growth or gall

   □ Defoliation  □ Burning of margins  □ Leaf curled or puckered

   □ Other: _______________________________________

   BRANCHES/TRUNK:  □ Cracks in bark  □ Gummy discharge  □ White stuff on bark

   □ Stunting  □ Abnormal growth on twigs or stem

   □ Hole in trunk  □ Abnormal growth on trunk  □ Wilted branch tip

   □ Other: _______________________________________

6. Distribution of affected parts:

   □ Top branches  □ Tip of branches  □ Scattered throughout

   □ Bottom branches  □ All branches on one side  □ All over plant

PLEASE CONTINUE ON PAGE 2
7. When was the problem first noticed? __________________________________________

8. Soil drainage: □ Very wet □ Very dry □ Good drainage

9. How often do you water: Is soil allowed to dry between watering? □ Yes □ No


10. Recent weather: □ Rainy/wet □ Very dry □ Cold □ Normal/Average

11. Light condition: If outside: □ Full sun □ Light shade □ Heavy shade

If inside: □ Direct sun □ Indirect sun □ Little or no light

12. Current management practices (give brand, rates, amount used, dates of application):

□ Fertilizer: _____________________________________________________________

□ Pesticides: ___________________________________________________________

□ Weed killer: __________________________________________________________

13. Recent environmental disturbances:

□ Soil added or removed □ Construction nearby □ High winds

□ Gas or sewer leaks □ Frost □ High temperature

□ Other: ______________________________________________________________

14. If it is an insect problem, how many insects have you seen?

□ A few (1 or 2) □ Moderate amount (10-20) □ Too many to count

15. Where was the problem seen? (Check all that apply)

□ Kitchen □ Dining Room □ Living Room □ Bed Room

□ Basement □ Attic □ Garage □ Around foundation

□ Closets □ Window Sills □ Porch □ In food

□ In clothes □ Other: _____________________________________________________

16. Other information that might be useful: ____________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
How to handle insect and plant specimens for identification

1. You MUST fill out The Insect and Disease Diagnosis Worksheet above. BE COMPLETE! The accuracy of your diagnosis depends on the information you supply. This information is critical to completing the diagnosis; if both sheets are not included, we cannot examine your sample and it will be discarded.

2. Pick and pack the specimen properly.
   - **Insects:** Collect 3-5 samples of the insect you would like identified. Place them in a container (a 35mm film canister works great for this) in the freezer overnight. This will kill the insects so they do not escape when we open them here. After they are dead, tape the container shut, and place it with packing filler and the completed worksheet above in a cardboard box (it MUST be in a CRUSHPROOF BOX).

   - **Plants:** Don't be afraid to collect a large sample; a small sample may not contain all the signs needed to make an accurate diagnosis. Send a representative sample, including both damaged and healthy tissue. Plant material that has been dead for some time is useless in determining the causal agent. For identification purposes, include leaves, stems, roots, and flowering or seed bearing portions of the plant. Place green leaves between dry paper towels and enclose them in a plastic bag without added moisture. Carefully shake excess soil from roots. Place roots in a plastic bag with moist (not water-logged) wood shavings to prevent material from drying out. Wrap fruits separately and without added moisture. Place your samples in a cardboard box (it MUST be in a CRUSHPROOF BOX), along with the completed worksheet above.

3. To lessen the possibility of sample deterioration over the weekend, mail specimens no later than Thursday morning.

   **Send samples to:**
   Master Gardener Program
   UVM Extension South Burlington Office
   655 Spear Street
   Burlington, VT 05405-0107

If it you are interested in dropping samples off at our office, please call first (1-800-639-2230 in Vermont only) to make sure that someone will be there to receive it. Bring samples to the address above.

Adapted from material originally produced by Nebraska Extension.