



Pest Watch

The Insect and Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab diagnoses insect problems and plant diseases; recommends insect and plant disease management practices; prepares and distributes fact sheets about insect pests and plant disorders; and keeps records of pest activity and new pest findings.



**Cornell
Cooperative
Extension**

The Insect and Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab at Cornell University

The Insect and Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab (IPDDL) at Cornell University has several functions. The most important is the diagnosis of insect problems and plant diseases. The lab also recommends insect and plant disease management practices, prepares and distributes fact sheets about insect pests and plant disorders, and keeps records of pest activity and new pest findings. The number of turf samples received for disease and nematode diagnosis from golf courses has been growing each year for the last several years. The relatively rapid turnaround time for disease diagnosis (often same day diagnosis) has been enthusiastically received.

The costs for diagnoses are as follows:

- insect and mite identifications \$25
- fungal and bacterial disease identifications 25
- virus identifications 40
- nematode assays 40

In New York State, Diagnostic Checklist Forms are available for purchase through county offices of Cornell Cooperative Extension. Forms also may be purchased directly through the lab (contact Betty Lou Poole at (607) 255-3250). Completed forms should accompany each problem submitted. We suggest that you purchase forms ahead of time and send them in as needed. This saves the lab a lot of paperwork and allows for a speedier diagnosis.

Several samples believed to be affected by the same problem can be submitted on one form (the samples will be examined as a group). If, by chance, you can include a photograph of the

symptoms, this can be very helpful. Try to send samples of the problem *before* pesticide treatments are made. Once pesticides have been applied, accurate identification of the insect or disease responsible for the symptoms may be impossible. If you have a fax number, please include it on the Checklist Form.

If you do not have access to a Checklist Form you can still send a sample to the lab. Please include a check, made payable to Cornell University, for the appropriate fee. Also include information about the problem: a general description, when it first appeared, is it getting worse, plant parts affected, distribution of the problem (small patches, large patches, general decline), and chemicals/fertilizers used over the past month. This information is requested on the Checklist Form. Again, it is best to send samples *before* pesticide treatments are made. If you have a fax number, please include it with the information sent.

It is best to avoid sending samples to the lab after Wednesday afternoon via traditional mail or UPS services. Samples sent should arrive at the lab before Friday afternoon or else they will spend the weekend in a post office. In the summer, samples delayed in route can severely overwarm during a weekend and be useless for diagnostic work when they do arrive. Samples sent via overnight or next day couriers arrive in the best condition.

continued on page 14



CORNELL UNIVERSITY TURFGRASS TIMES
20 Plant Science Building
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853