LOUISIANA HOME LAWN SERIES
A guide to maintaining a healthy Louisiana lawn

How to Collect a Nematode Sample

General Considerations

The process of sampling for nematodes is rather simple. The number of samples required will depend on the size, use and characteristics of the area. A sample should be representative of the turf area to be sampled or the turf area thought to be infested with nematodes. The area of the turf should be subdivided into areas that share similar grass species, topography and soil types because these factors can affect micro-environments of nematodes.

Numbers of nematodes are usually highest in the fall, making the fall a good time to sample. Sample in areas that are exhibiting symptoms or in areas between dead and injured grass. Areas of dead grass will have fewer nematodes because there are inadequate resources for them. Also, collect samples when soil moisture is not too wet or too dry.

Materials Needed

1. Plastic bag (at least 1 pint)
2. Soil probe
3. Marking pen
4. Nematode Advisory Service (NAS) form

Steps for Collecting a Nematode Sample

Step 1: Evaluate the area to determine the number of soil samples that will be required. Large areas or areas with different turfgrass species, soil types or topography will require more than one soil sample.

Step 2: Collect samples of the turfgrass and soil using a soil probe to a depth of 6 to 8 inches from 15 to 20 spots within the sampling area. Be sure that core samples are spaced in a uniform pattern.

Step 3: Mix soil cores together and place one pint of the soil and root mixture into a plastic bag. Roots should be included because some nematodes are found only in roots. Seal the bag and label it. Include as much information regarding the sample location as possible, including your name, phone number and email; the date the sample was taken; your parish, street address, city, state and GPS coordinates, if available; grass species, topography, soil texture, and history and future plans for the turfgrass.

This information helps to provide better recommendations for your situation.

Step 4: Hot or cold temperatures and dry conditions will kill sampled nematodes. Protect collected samples by placing the sample in a place that will remain at room temperature. Keep the bag out of direct sunlight.

Step 5: Fill out a Nematode Advisory Service (NAS) form for each sample and promptly submit samples following collection. More information regarding nematode sampling and analysis can be found on the Nematode Advisory Service website.

Step 6: Mail samples, forms and payment to:

Nematode Advisory Service

Department of Plant Pathology, 302 Life Sciences Building

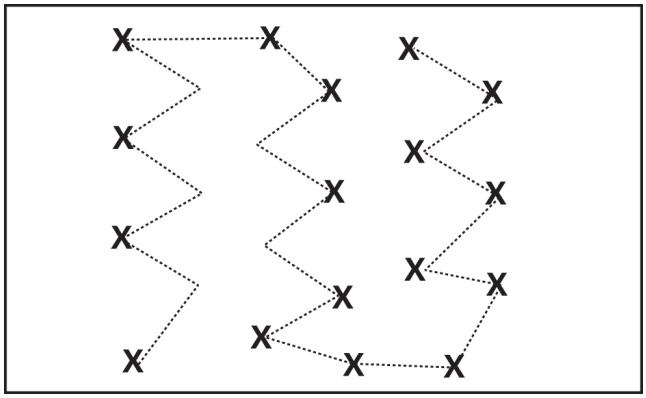
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Download the NAS form for submitting nematode samples:

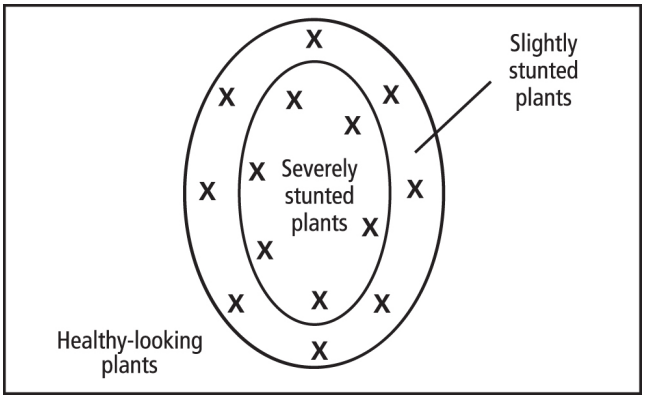
http://bit.ly/357Iq3r

For additional information on sampling nematodes for analysis in a diverse set of situations, visit:

http://bit.ly/2E3juOC



Systematic pattern for sampling a routine check across the lawn .



Pattern for sampling a problem area in the lawn.

Using soil probe for sampling.

Collecting soil samples in plastic bag.

Authors:
Dennis Ring, Professor, Extension Entomologist, Entomology Department; Charles Overstreet, Specialist and Professor, Nematology, Department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology
Jeffrey Beasley, Associate Professor, School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences; Ronald Strahan, Associate Professor, School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences
Kayla Sanders, Extension Associate, School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences

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William B. Richardson, LSU Vice President for Agriculture
Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station, Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, LSU College of Agriculture