

Rapid Turfgrass Diagnosis

Rapid turfgrass diagnosis is a new service offered by the LSU AgCenter Plant Diagnostic Center for the turfgrass industry. This service includes a preliminary diagnosis and recommendations within 24 to 48 hours of receiving the sample followed by a complete diagnosis and recommendations about additional best management practices.



The service includes diagnosis and identification of biotic causes, including fungi, bacteria, viruses, insect pests, nematodes and some abiotic causes. The abiotic causes are based on visual observations only and limited to herbicide, cold or frost injury. This service also includes measurements of the pH and EC (soluble salts) of the sample.

What is NOT INCLUDED in the diagnosis?

The service does not include on-site visits, weed and plant identification, plant and soil nutritional analysis, pathogen detection from water, chemical residue analysis and other abiotic causes.

How to COLLECT samples

Samples should contain plant tissue with early and advanced stages of disease development. Collect turfgrass samples from a transition zone between healthy and affected turfgrass containing both healthy and affected turf. Cup cutter samples (figure 1) are preferred. Submit a minimum of two samples from each problem area. Samples containing completely dead grass will not be diagnosed, and you will be asked to provide another sample.



Figure 1. Cup cutter sample for rapid turfgrass diagnosis

How to PACK samples

Wrap samples in newspaper or aluminum foil and place them in a sturdy cardboard box. Do not add any water to the samples. Always remember to include the completed Rapid Turfgrass Diagnosis Sample Submission Form with each sample. Samples without submission form and diagnostic fee will not be diagnosed.

How to SUBMIT samples

Send samples immediately after collecting them. Plan delivery for early in the week by using an overnight delivery service. Turfgrass samples are not received on Saturdays, Sundays and other LSU AgCenter holidays.

What is the MAILING ADDRESS for submitting samples?

**Plant Diagnostic Center
302 Life Sciences Bldg.
LSU Campus
Baton Rouge, LA 70803**

How much does it cost?

In-state: \$75 per sample

Out-of-state*: \$100 per sample

***Make checks payable to
LSU AgCenter PDC***

***Note: Out-of-state disease samples must include USDA APHIS permit for interstate movement of plant material.**

Online with the Plant Diagnostic Center

The center website (www.lsuagcenter.com/PlantDiagnostics) contains a variety of useful information, including fact sheets, the popular Disease Image Gallery and the Louisiana Plant Disease Management Guide, as well as links to other websites of interest. Please check back often, as we continually strive to provide you with new information to help solve your “growing pains.”

Diagnostic Center Overview

The Plant Diagnostic Center is a service provided by the LSU AgCenter and is supported by the Department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology. We are located in the Life Sciences Building (Room 438) across the street from the Student Union on the LSU campus in Baton Rouge.

For More Information

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www.LSUAgCenter.com/PlantDiagnostics



Visit our website:

www.LSUAgCenter.com/PlantDiagnostics

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Rapid Turfgrass Diagnosis

