



Extension Plant Pathology Laboratory  
Oregon State University  
Hermiston Agricultural Research & Extension Center  
P O Box 105 Hermiston, OR 97838  
541-567-8321

## Directions for Sample Submission to HAREC Plant Pathology Lab

The Plant Pathology Laboratory at the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center is equipped to identify a number of plant disease problems. It is important that plant samples are properly submitted to the lab to ensure proper and timely identification. Please follow the instructions below when submitting a sample.

1. When submitting diseased plants it is important to send or bring in as much of the plant as possible. Many diseases are the result of damage to or infections in parts of the plant that are distant from the parts of the plant that show symptoms. So if possible bring in roots, stems, leaves, flowers, and even the soil around roots. Submitting a healthy plant samples is useful for comparisons. Digital pictures of the plant symptoms in the field are also useful and can be sent into the lab or E-mailed to Robert Cating at: Robert.cating@oregonstate.edu.
2. Mailing plant samples to the plant pathology lab:
  - Put plants in a paper bag and put paper bag in a box for shipping. Pack brittle samples in dry packing material (paper towels) so they aren't crushed during shipment.
  - Do not put samples in wet paper towels or in a sealed plastic bags, this will cause the plant tissue to rot and will make diagnosing the problem difficult or impossible. If you are concerned that the sample will dry out before it gets to the lab, wrap cut ends in a dry paper towel and place wrapped ends in a plastic bag. Secure plastic bag to stems with rubber bands. Keep samples cool until shipping and mail samples early in the week.
  - If sending soil samples for fungi testing take 4-10 small samples from different parts of the area of concern and combine them in a sealable plastic bag or soil sample bag of appropriate size. Usually one quart of soil is enough to run all soil fungi tests. Put sample bags in a sturdy box and be sure to secure sample bag opening so it doesn't open during shipment. For large areas such as agriculture fields, it might be useful to submit more than one soil sample per field. For example, one sample from the north, south, east, and west quadrants of the field. If submitting soil from a diseased area, take another soil sample from an area where plants are healthy.
  - Include a completed Plant Pathology Sample Submission (PPSS) Form with each sample or set of samples submitted to the lab. Fill in as much of the PPSS Form as possible.
  - Plant samples can be mailed to:  
Robert A Cating, Ph.D.  
Extension Plant Pathology Laboratory  
Oregon State University  
Hermiston Agricultural Research & Extension Center  
2121 S. 1st Street  
Hermiston, OR 97838
  - Plant and soil can also be dropped off at the HAREC Plant Pathology Lab or HAREC main office during normal business hours, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Please call ahead if bringing a sample to the lab after normal business hours. The number is (541) 567-8321. Call main office for directions.
  - Reports can be E-mailed as a PDF, faxed, or sent as a hard copy along with the invoice for testing fees. Reports can also be relayed via telephone upon request.