

# Sample Submission Guidelines

The **Texas High Plains Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (THPPDD-Lab)** is a service to the people of Texas by the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology at Texas A&M University, in conjunction with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Great Plains Diagnostic Network (GPDN) of the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN). The THPPDD-Lab is open from 8a.m. to 5p.m. Monday–Friday (except holidays) and is located at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Amarillo. Please contact THPPDD-Lab using the contact information below for additional information. You can also follow us on twitter @thppdd\_lab

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**Samples should be submitted to:**

Texas High Plains Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory  
Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center  
6500 Amarillo Blvd. W.  
Amarillo, Texas 79106

**Diagnostic fees can be paid online:**

*thppdd-lab.tamu.edu/pay*

**Email:** thppdd-lab@ag.tamu.edu

**Phone:** 806-677-5625

We accept samples both by mail and by in-person delivery. Please note packaging instructions still apply to in-person deliveries.

**\*\*Please be sure your samples arrive before Thursday afternoon. When mailing, check delivery dates before sending. \*\***

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**THPPDD-Lab Policy**

1. A submitted sample must be of adequate quality and quantity and accompanied by a completed Plant Disease Diagnostic Form (PDDF-001). This form is available through our website at <https://thppdd-lab.tamu.edu>. Quality of diagnosis depends on the quality of the submitted sample.
  2. Inadequate/poor samples will be processed with the option to resubmit offered to the client. The resubmitted sample will not incur an additional charge unless an additional/appropriate test is needed to provide accurate diagnosis.
  3. No refunds will be made. A base fee of \$35 will be assessed; additional testing will incur additional fees.
  4. Reports (results and recommendations) are e-mailed or mailed to the person(s) specified on the submission form. If not specified, the payee of services will receive the report.
  5. All specimens will be disposed of appropriately once analysis is completed.
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**Instructions for collecting, packaging, and submitting PLANT specimens**

1. Submit only freshly collected specimens showing a progression of symptoms. Try NOT to send dead plants. Keep the specimens refrigerated after collection until they are submitted. DO NOT ADD WATER or pack the specimen with a wet paper towel. Keep sample(s) out of direct sunlight and/or heat.
  2. If there is suspicion of a root-related problem (e.g. Cotton Root Rot or Phytophthora Root Rot), provide a sample of roots.
  3. For Plants showing wilting, yellowing, stunting, or general decline, send the entire plant including the root system. If possible, isolate roots from foliage when packaging.
  4. If submitting more than one sample, clearly LABEL the outside of each bag with a permanent marker.
  5. For virus testing, collect symptomatic leaves, stems, or whole plant with roots (ideal), and place in a plastic resealable bag. If roots are wet, wrap with dry paper towel. Add dry paper towels around leaves to absorb any moisture generated.
  6. For seed testing, collect and submit 7-10 grams of seeds (or equivalent of 300-500 seeds) in clean and dry paper envelope, or in a plastic resealable bag. For cereals, dried harvested heads with or without the glumes attached can also be submitted.
  7. Complete the Plant Disease Diagnostic Form (PDDF-001). Make sure the identification on the form matches the labels on sample bags. Keep the form in a separate plastic bag from the specimen. Limit 1 sample per form. We encourage you to include recent pesticide history (last 3 weeks), soil testing results, and any other pertinent information.
  8. Package all specimens securely to prevent damage during transit. To prevent crushing use cardboard boxes and add packing material such as newspaper to prevent specimen damage during shipment.
  9. Ship samples to the above address by overnight delivery or mail early in the week to ensure arrival by Thursday afternoon. Plant samples often decompose if left over the weekend in a delivery warehouse. Same-day or next-day service is recommended.
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**Services Not Provided**

THPPDD-Lab does not routinely provide the following services to our clientele:

1. Pesticide residue determination in and/or on plants and soil
2. Soil nutrient levels, soluble salts, or plant tissue analysis (Contact Soil Testing Lab at <http://soiltesting.tamu.edu> or <https://servitechlabs.com/>)
3. Plant identification
4. Regulatory and enforcement (Contact your regional TDA office at <https://www.texasagriculture.gov>)

**Additional notes regarding specimen:**

*Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Court of Texas Cooperating.*