

Instruction for Collecting and Preparing Plant Samples for the University of Idaho Extension Plant Clinic

1. Fresh samples are accepted. Place in a plastic bag with a dry paper towel and seal bag. Fill out University of Idaho [Plant/Weed Identification Request Form](#) and tape to the bag. Put in a box or padded envelope if mailing. Do not add moisture to the paper towel because the plant will turn to mush. Dry paper towel is the best.
2. Collect roots, stems, leaves, flowers, and fruits if possible and collect a couple of representative specimens.
3. Sending pressed and dried plants is technically correct, but the process often changes flower color and plant shape. Fresh is the best.
4. Bring samples to UI/Nez Perce County Extension office to be diagnosed and/ or forwarded to University of Idaho for further examination. Plan to bring to the office Tuesday morning or before, if possible, to avoid plants deteriorating.
5. **Concerning our diagnosis:** Findings reported by this office are based on examination of information and plant material submitted. Not all plant problems are caused by plant pathogens or insect attacks. Other causes (unusual weather patterns, nutrient deficiencies, pesticides) are often difficult to diagnose without an on-site investigation. Some diagnoses require intensive microscopic or biochemical analysis which we do not have the facilities to accomplish.

Digital Submission

1. Fill out University of Idaho [Plant/Weed Identification Request Form](#) and scan to a jpg file with flatbed scanner.
2. Put plant on glass plate of scanner add a ruler to note scale. Scan in color and high resolution (+300 dpi). Several images may be needed to show all plant features. JPG format works the best.
3. If a flatbed scanner is not available then digital images can be used. Be sure to get pictures of the following:
 - a. whole plant
 - b. flower close up
 - c. leaf close up
 - d. root crown close up
4. Email files as attachments to nezperce@uidaho.edu