

SUGGESTIONS FOR COLLECTING AND  
MAILING DISEASED SPECIMENS

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M 1197  
no. 195  
SPECIAL  
COLLECTION

Plant pathologists at V. P. I. are frequently asked to examine specimens of diseased plants, determine the cause of the trouble, and recommend control measures. Keen observation and prompt action on the part of field workers often result in the finding of new and dangerous diseases and bringing them to the attention of the proper authorities.

Identifying plant diseases and suggesting means for their control is important. Such service not only helps plant pathologists to keep informed concerning important plant-disease problems, but also aids growers in controlling diseases. Since the pathologist is dependent upon good specimens for an accurate diagnosis, it is important that the following procedure be followed in preparing disease specimens to be sent in:

1. Collect the whole diseased plant, if practicable.
2. Specimens should be wrapped so as to arrive in the best possible condition for examination. When the entire plant is sent in, wrap the roots with a moist cloth to hold the soil in place and keep the plant fresh. Separate leaves or tender plant parts should be wrapped in cellophane or waxed paper to prevent drying out. ~~Place~~ <sup>Place</sup> specimen in a container and mail at once. Write name and address on or inside the package.
3. If large leaves, such as those of tobacco are to be mailed, first press them and then place them between pieces of cardboard or other stiff material for mailing.
4. For trees and shrubs, since it is impractical to send in the whole plant, send some of the affected leaves and branches, but examine the entire plant for any other indications of disease. If symptoms are found on other parts of the plant, they should be reported; and, if practical, specimens of such parts should be sent in also.
5. In an accompanying letter, describe the symptoms of the trouble as accurately as possible by contrasting the diseased plant with a healthy one as to size, shape, and color. State the extent of injury in the field, name the variety of crop, and give as much history of the case as seems pertinent.
6. Address the specimens and the letter accompanying it to the Plant Pathologist, Virginia Agricultural Extension Service, Blacksburg, Virginia.

MR-195  
S. B. Fenne  
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