



Sample Submission Instructions for Oak Wilt Analysis in New York State

The Cornell Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic (PDDC) is working with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to collect and analyze samples that may be infected with the oak wilt pathogen. We are interested in learning about suspect trees.

Prior to collecting and shipping a sample, please submit one or more good digital photos.

We would like to see an image of the overall symptoms on the tree(s) and another image of the symptoms on individual leaves. Digital photos may be submitted to the PDDC project diagnostician at: mah31@cornell.edu. **Note: Please downsize photos before sending them so you can include a few good images.** Large photos may be rejected.

If symptoms are determined to be suspicious and sample submission approved, you will be contacted by a PDDC staff member. Please provide as much information as you can on this form and include it with the submitted plant material.

We provided instructions for how to collect and ship a sample below, but if needed, you can also contact your local Cornell Cooperative Extension Office for assistance with a possible oak wilt suspect sample. County Educators will assist you with determining if a sample is a good candidate for submission and how to collect and send a quality sample.

If you are a private citizen, **please do not collect samples from or take photos of trees on others' private property.** If you know of a suspect tree at a location other than your own property, contact the NYSDEC reporting hotline at 866-650-0652. State regulatory officials (NYSDEC, New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets [NYS DAM]) will contact the owners of the property regarding analysis.

For additional information on symptoms of Oak Wilt please visit our web page at:

www.plantclinic.cornell.edu/oakwiltpage.html

Or see one of the following web sites:

http://nyis.info/index.php?action=invasive_detail&id=46 or

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/46919.html> or

USFS http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/howtos/ht_oakwilt/identify_prevent_and_control_oak_wilt_print.pdf.

Instructions for Collecting and Shipping the Sample(s)

Collect six (6) to ten (10) twigs that are 6 to 12 inches long and a minimum of 1/2 inch and not more than 2 inches in diameter from one or more **living, symptomatic** branches on each suspicious tree. A minimum of three (3) twigs is acceptable if the branch segments fit the larger suggested length and width.

Provide a unique identification that is descriptive to you for each sample, such as: "West side of house" or "Right front corner of yard" or "Tree #1, Tree #2 and Tree #3", etc.; Label each sample accordingly.

Although leaf tissue is not tested, symptoms can provide diagnostic information. Please include 5-20 symptomatic leaves. Leaves should be dry/free of moisture.

Suspect branch tissue for each sample should be placed in a sealable plastic bag. Associated leaf tissue should be placed in a **separate** sealable plastic bag. Both should then be placed in a third plastic bag to **create a double-bagged sample.**

Place the completed sample submission form in the outer plastic bag with the twig and leaf bags or in a separate sealable plastic bag. This step is necessary to ensure the paperwork does not get moist in transit. Moist paper can break down easily and submission information can be lost on a degraded form. Label the bags with a marker just in case the forms are damaged or separated in shipment.

Ship samples in a secure container such as a sturdy cardboard box, mailing tube, or styrofoam container. Samples should be shipped via overnight delivery service or hand delivered to the diagnostic facility.



If you suspect one or more oak trees of being infected with the oak wilt pathogen and you wish to submit a sample for analysis, please include the following information. These details are important!

Provide site or contact information below. This is needed for reference to the location of the sample and/or to contact you if the PDDC staff have questions.

Name:
Address:
Phone: () Cell Phone: ()
Email address:

Provide the contact information of the referring agent (CCE, NYSDEC, NYSDAM, Arborist) if submitting for a client or location other than your home or for others to be copied:

Name:
Address:
Phone: () Cell Phone: ()
Email address:

Are you informing our staff of... a suspicious tree(s) or submitting a physical sample(s)?
Are you submitting digital images of the tree(s) of concern? Yes No
How did you learn of the oak wilt pathogen? Clinic website, other website, BOLO postcard/poster, Cornell Cooperative Extension county office, at a presentation given by, other
Site Information: List the tree(s) showing symptoms:
If the site specific tree species is not known, please indicate one of the following:
The majority of symptomatic tree(s) appear to be in the red oak family (leaves typically have pointed lobes)
The majority of symptomatic tree(s) appear to be in the white oak family (leaves typically have rounded lobes)
More than one tree is showing symptoms, and trees may not be the same species

Number of samples submitted for analysis: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Collection date (MM/DD/YY)?
Symptoms appeared date (MM/DD/YY)?
Location (If differs from contact info)?
Please provide for each sample being submitted:
Unique/Field ID Host Genus and species Host common name
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
The number of trees showing symptoms near sample collection area:
1 2 to 5 6 or more too many to estimate

Observed Signs & Symptoms:
Branch flagging
Cracks in bark
Leaf distortion/cupping/curling
Marginal leaf scorch (browning)
Shedding leaves (also answer below):
all colors dropped at same time
only brown leaves dropped
Thinning of leaves (canopy appears thin)
Twig dieback
Vascular discoloration/streaking
Wilting
Yellowing
Other:

Other details or comments?

Symptoms Distribution on Plant:
Lower branches Upper branches
Scattered branches Entire tree(s)
Varies by tree
Other: