SAMPLE SUBMISSION PROCESS AND DIAGNOSIS

Whole plants, if possible, or plant parts may be submitted to the laboratory for plant or disease identification. The sample should include intact leaves, stems, flowers, and fruit. Sample submission forms are available at:

http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/acwm/215683_InternetPlantsubform.pdf

- Complete all required sections of the form.
- Collect a fresh sample the day you plan to mail it.
- Try to collect a sample containing both healthy and diseased portions.
- Clean your cutting tool between each separate plant sampling to avoid any disease transmission while collecting samples.
- Put samples inside a zip-seal plastic bag, leaving enough air to puff the bag to help avoid any damage during shipment.
- Send via priority shipment on weekdays to have sample received the next day; the laboratory is closed on Fridays.
- For in-person visit, diagnosis will be done in the field or sample brought to the laboratory.
- Diagnosis will be done to the molecular level for genus or, in some cases, species identification of the pathogen on the sample for proper pest rating.
- Please make sure to provide a daytime call back number for faster results reporting.
- For plant or mushroom identification, digital images of intact and entire plant parts or mushroom should be submitted.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Department of Agricultural Commissioner / Weights & Measures

acwm.lacounty.gov

Plant Pathology Laboratory
South Gate Office
(562) 622-0433

Headquarters Office
12300 Lower Azusa Road
Arcadia, CA 91006
Voice: (626) 575-5471
Fax: (626) 350-3243

South Gate Office
11012 Garfield Avenue
South Gate, CA 90280
Voice: (562) 622-0402
Fax: (562) 861-0278

This information is available in alternative formats.

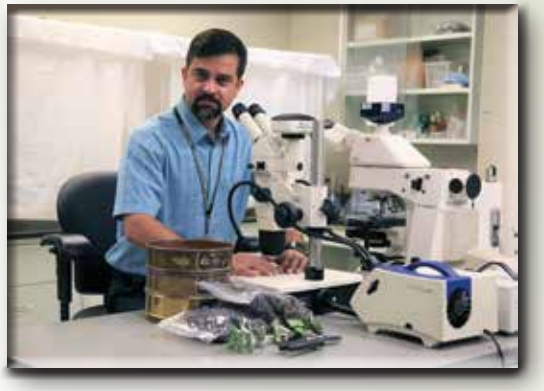
For further assistance:
TDD (626) 575-5520
Voice: (626) 575-5471
Fax: (626) 350-3243

December 2020

Department of Agricultural Commissioner/ Weights & Measures

PLANT PATHOLOGY

Laboratory Services



Dr. Dhiraj Gautam
Senior Biologist/Plant Pathologist

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

LABORATORY MISSION

The primary mission of the Plant Pathology Laboratory is to prevent the introduction into Los Angeles County of exotic plant diseases, plant pathogenic nematodes, and invasive weeds through nursery stock and other agricultural shipments from other states. Plant Pathology Laboratory Services available to the public include:

- Plant disease and damage diagnosis
- Plant and mushroom identification
- Nematode identification
- Consultation on landscape maintenance

Symptomatic plant samples can be shipped to our South Gate office address or submitted as digital images through email. Please call first prior to such submission. In-person disease diagnosis can be done if needed, as well as treatment recommendations. Services provided by the laboratory are free.

Nursery plant sampling

Need more information?
University of California, Riverside
www.ipm.ucanr.edu/

University of Florida, Gainesville
https://ipm.ifas.ufl.edu/

GUIDELINES TO GROWING HEALTHY PLANTS

- **Seed or plant material:** Buy certified disease-free seeds or plant material.
- **Manage insects:** Insects damage plants and transmit pathogens to healthy plants.
- **Cultural practices:** Good cultural practices, with optimum fertilizer application, timely planting, and irrigation, with regular plant monitoring will limit disease occurrence.

ROOT SAMPLE PROCESSING AND NEMATODE IDENTIFICATION

Root/soil samples

Nematode extraction in mist chamber

Nematode identification on microscope

LANDSCAPE CONSULTATION

Plants face biotic and abiotic stresses. Biotic stresses are caused by plant pathogens. Abiotic stresses involve cultural practices, weather, nutrition, soil type, and plant placement. Our plant pathologist can provide technical information that will assist the grower, landscape manager, or homeowner to determine if and what cultural changes are necessary to prevent further plant damage. The following technical information will be addressed:

- **Irrigation**: Timing and rate per season
- **Suitability**: Plant variety and location
- **Fertilization**: Dosage and timing of application
- **Integrated Pest Management**:
  IPM practices focus on all aspects of insect and disease control

Nutrient deficiency in citrus leaf

Bacterial leaf scorch disease of olive