

Cal Poly strawberry disease diagnostic service activity - 2025

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The diagnostic service is funded by the California Strawberry Commission and a free service for the California strawberry growers. From Jan to Jun 2025, we received 169 samples from four strawberry growing regions (Fig. 1). Samples typically consist of 3-5 plants but can be more if they are fruit, leaf, or transplants. The samples were analyzed using microscopy, incubations, plating on selective media and molecular methods for fungal, oomycete, and bacterial pathogens and nematodes (Table 1).

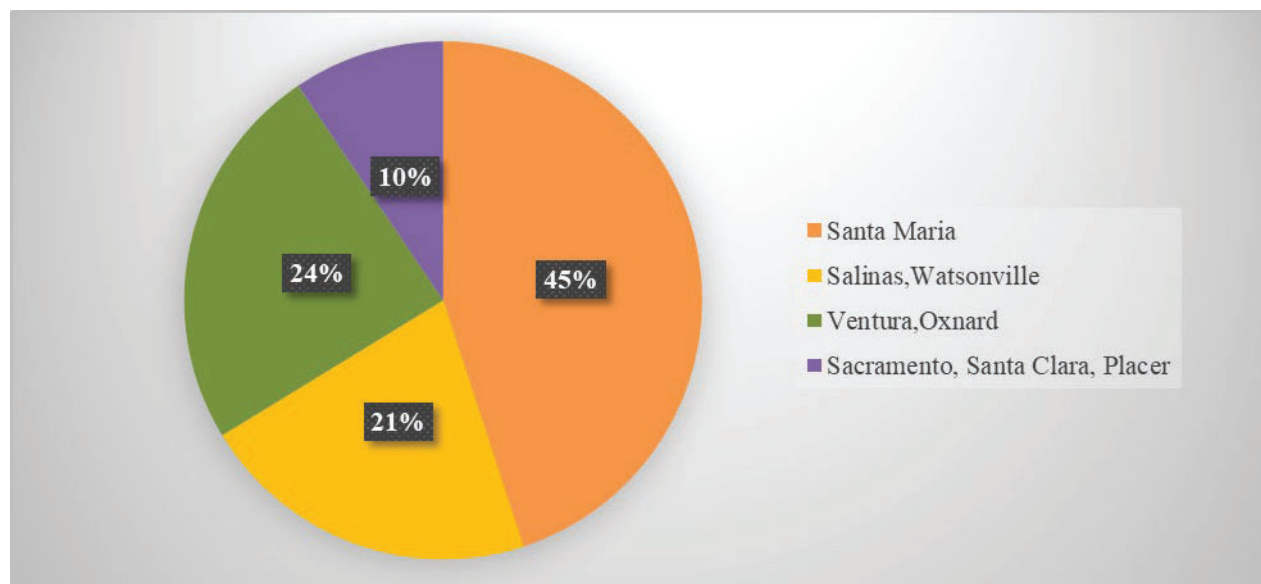


Figure 1. Diagnostic samples by district.

Table 1. Comparison of disease identification from Jan to Jun 2025 with the past years.

Disease/pathogen/disorder	2022	2023	2024	2025 (Jan-June)
Abiotic / pest problems	34 (21%)	26 (21%)	44 (22%)	15 (9%)
Macrophomina root rot	34 (21%)	36 (28%)	31 (15%)	22 (13%)
Phytophthora crown rot	29 (18%)	23 (18%)	19 (10%)	22 (13%)
Fusarium wilt (race 1)	28 (17%)	31 (24%)	39 (19%)	45 (27%)
Fusarium wilt (race 2)	NA	NA	8 (4%)	7 ^a (4%)
Verticillium wilt	11 (7%)	12 (9%)	15 (8%)	18 (11%)
anthracnose	2 (1%)	0 (0%)	19 (10%)	26 ^b (15%)
root-knot nematode	4 (3%)	8 (6%)	6 (3%)	5 ^c (3%)
<i>Pythium</i> spp.	33 (20%)	42 (33%)	37 (18%)	40 ^d (24%)
Total number of samples	162	127	201	169 ^e

^aNot new sites for *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *fragariae* race 2

^bDoes not indicate the number of individual sites.

^{c,d}Not the primary cause of disease.

^eSamples can have more than one pathogen, therefore this number is smaller than the sum of the numbers.

