Cal Poly strawberry disease diagnostic service activity - 2026

S. S. Hewavitharana and A. E. Richardson

The plant diagnostic service is funded by the California Strawberry Commission and is a free service for California strawberry growers. From Jan to Jun 2026, we received 258 samples from four strawberry growing regions (Fig. 1 and 2). 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.

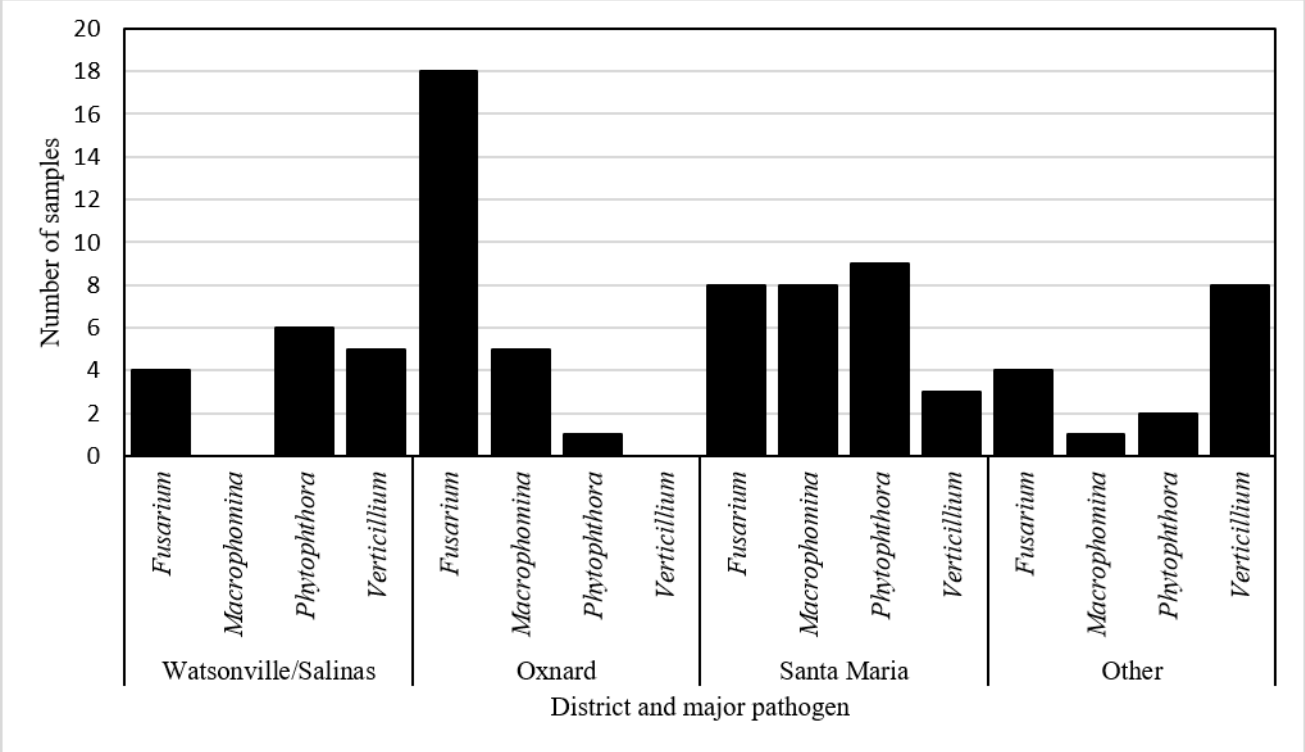


Figure 1. Diagnoses of diseases caused by major soilborne pathogens by district in 2026.

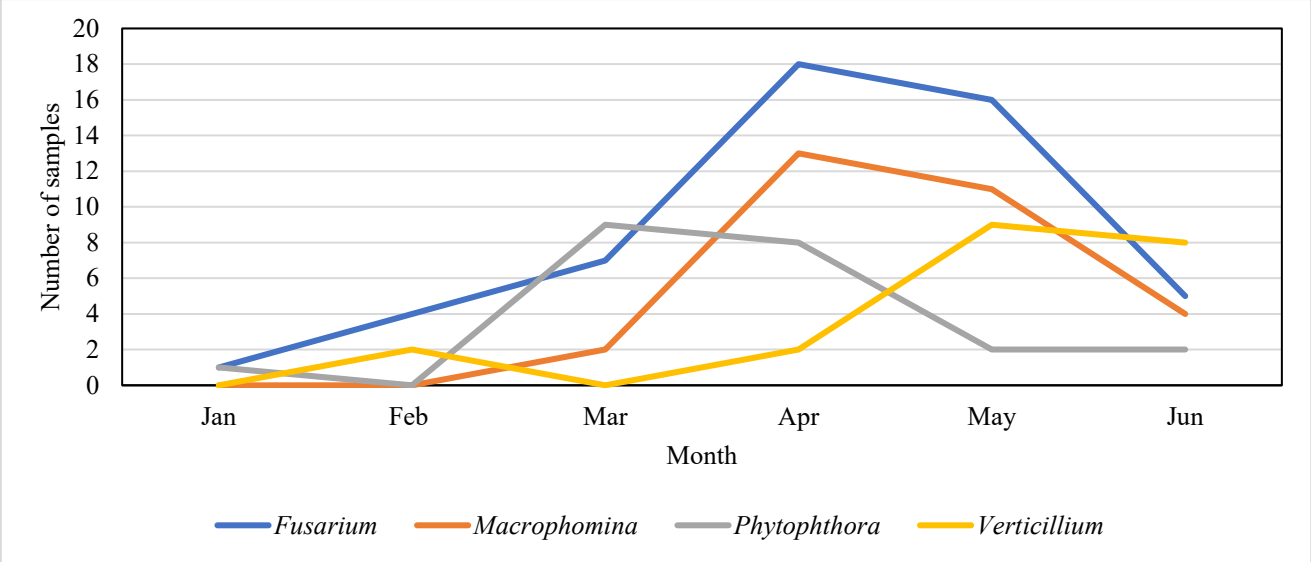


Figure 2. Diagnoses of diseases caused by major soilborne pathogens by month of 2026.