

## Best Practices for Submitting a Plant Sample

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### Instructions on how to properly collect, package, and deliver a strawberry plant sample

- *Sample plants that show symptoms.* It is harder to find the pathogens in dead plant material because of all the other organisms present. Include 3-5 plants that show different stages of the disease (mild to severe).



Too healthy



Too decayed



Just right

- *Check crown symptoms of similar plants before sending.* The chance of finding the pathogen increases when there's discoloration in the crown tissue.



Great variation of crown discoloration →

*more likely to find a pathogen*



Less variation of crown discoloration →

*less likely to find a pathogen*

- *Send the entire plant.* Even if you see symptoms in leaves, the pathogen can be infecting the roots or crown. Please **do not** send a large amount of soil.
- *Soil samples.* We are developing a service to assay soil for pathogen levels. Stay tuned!
- *Take photos.* It is helpful for us to diagnose the disease if you send photos of the symptoms in the field prior to sampling showing the distribution of the problem in the field. You can take photos with your phones and email those to [shewavit@calpoly.edu](mailto:shewavit@calpoly.edu)

- *Fill out the submission form.* The plant sample submission form is now available online at <https://strawberry.calpoly.edu/>
  - Each sample that has a different problem needs a separate form.
  - Provide as much information as you can. Information you provide helps us diagnose the problem.
  - Please include the city where the field is located in the top information section.
  - Make sure the label on the bag and the form match.
- *Submit your sample.*
  - Package your sample in a plastic bag. Do not use paper bags for leaf samples as these dry out quickly.
  - Local samples: Drop off at the address below.
- *Ship your sample:*
  - Please ship the sample on the same day it was collected.
  - If you are unable to ship the sample on the same day, store the bagged sample in the refrigerator. Fresh samples are better for diagnosis.
  - If possible use a cooler with ice packs during transit. Avoid direct sunlight on the sample during transit.
  - It is better to send us the samples early in the week. Please avoid shipping on Fridays or before holidays.
  - Label your package ‘perishable plants’.
  - Samples are accepted Monday through Friday 8:00 am-4:30 pm
  - Shipping address:

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