

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LIFE SCIENCES
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Plant Diagnostic Laboratory

Sample Collection, Packaging and Shipping Guidelines for Turf Samples (homeowners only)

Please follow the instructions below to collect a turf sample from your home and pack it for shipping. For commercial turf samples for Dr. Nathaniel Mitkowski visit: uriturf.org

Note also that photographs of turf samples are required; email images to plantlab@uri.edu.

Sample Collection

1. When collecting the turf sample, find a location in the grass where the healthy and unhealthy areas meet.
2. Take two photos of the area you will take the sample from - *one photo of the entire lawn, and another photo of the affected area close-up.*
3. Use a shovel, knife, or other tool to collect the sample; dig out an approximately 3-4" wide square that lies on both sides of the healthy and unhealthy areas of grass.
4. Dig 2-3" below the soil line to pull up the grass without digging it out. Be sure to keep the roots and any soil that is sticking to the plant attached - do not wash the soil off!

Sample Packing and Shipping

1. Complete the Plant Sample Submission Form. Provide as much for the information we request as possible - this will help us diagnose the issue!
2. Wrap the collected sample or samples in aluminum foil and put it in a small box, along with your payment and the completed form.
3. Do not add paper towels or water / mist to the samples.
4. Send images to plantlab@uri.edu; include [Turf Sample photos_Your Name] in the subject line of the email.
5. Include a check payable to "URI" for \$20.00 per turf sample with the sample and form.
6. Ship the sample early in the week to prevent samples sitting in the mail over the weekend.
7. Mail your sample to:

Kathleen M. Mallon Outreach Center
% Plant Protection Clinic
3 East Alumni Avenue
Kingston, RI 02881

Don't forget the photos!

Please submit a close-up image and an image of the entire lawn area to: plantlab@uri.edu.