



The FABI Diagnostic Clinic

The Diagnostic Clinic provides a free disease diagnostic service to its members and partners. In this way, plant disease problems can be readily identified and solutions to these problems sought. Information accumulated through this service is added to the FABI database on diseases and ensure a long term record of trends associated with pest and pathogen outbreaks. In addition, selected isolates and specimens of important disease agents are stored using state of the art technologies. These cultures and specimens are a critical resource for plant health research in the country. E.g. living cultures can be used for screening disease tolerance and in determining genetic variability over time.

Collection of Samples

To ensure accurate diagnoses, special care must be taken when collecting samples. Try to collect samples that accurately represent the disease symptoms at hand. Many disease symptoms are subtle, e.g. those associated with root disease are often identical to those from basal stem cankers.

Collect tissue representing the primary symptoms concerned. In the case of root or stem diseases, these samples should preferably be from trees that are in the process of dying and should include both diseased and healthy tissue. Where possible, send the whole plant. Soil should always accompany root samples when a root problem is suspected. If possible, include samples from at least five plants.

Insect specimens, such as beetles, larvae or moths should be sent in small vials filled with surgical alcohol

Preparation for Dispatch

1. Contact us directly to discuss a disease problem before samples are collected and dispatched. This ensures that appropriate samples are collected and that the clinic can prepare for the sample's arrival.
2. An **information sheet** should accompany your samples. Please contact the clinic manager for one.
3. Samples should be individually wrapped and labelled and placed in a sturdy box or padded envelope. Soil samples should be between 150 and 300 grams and sealed in a plastic bag.
4. Send samples overnight via courier to ensure sample freshness.

Feedback of information

Identifications based on morphology (cultural or specimen) can take time, but you should receive feedback in 2 – 3 weeks. In cases where a more in depth analysis is required, such as baiting, DNA sequencing etc., we usually require an additional week or two.

Contact Details

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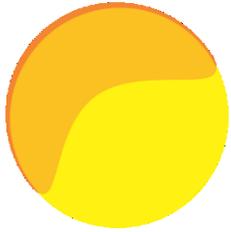
Field Extension:
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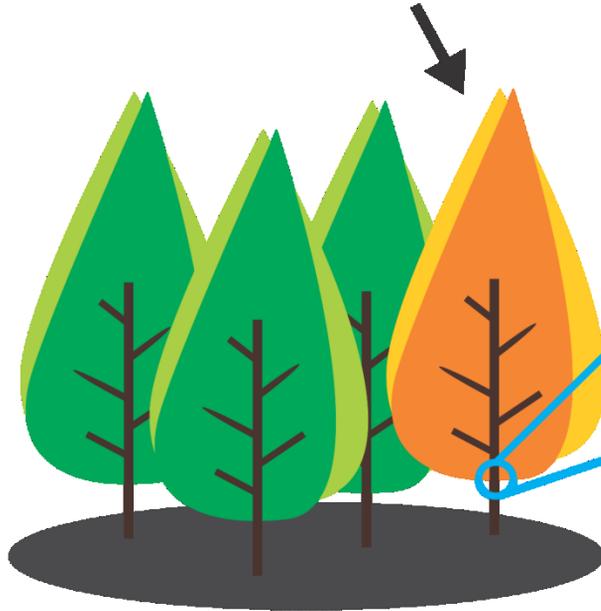
Email: brett.hurley@fabi.up.ac.za

Website:
www.fabinet.up.ac.za/index.php/services

1. Identify diseased plant/s



4. Any environmental link to the symptoms?



2. Identify the symptoms (wilt, death, cankers, root rot, die-back, etc.)



3. Take photographs (if possible)



5. Small plant - collect the whole plant



5b. Large samples - collect affected tissue with the primary symptoms



6. Fill in Diagnostic Clinic Information sheet



7. Package sample in appropriate packaging and send with Diagnostic Clinic Information sheet

