



DECEMBER 2006



HOMEOWNER PLANT DISEASE CLINIC REPORT

Holly Thornton, Homeowner IPM Specialist

As of Tuesday, December 12, 2006, I have met with each district in the state regarding changes and updates to the submission process for Homeowner plant diagnostic samples. I have received many valuable suggestions and comments from county agents and personnel throughout the state. We have taken each and every one of these into consideration before solidifying final decisions on the matter. Although all the changes being implemented have not been well-received throughout the state, the changes to be implemented will help provide a more timely response for both diagnoses and recommendations, and improve the quality of recommendation given to the homeowner. These updates and changes are presented in this monthly report in place of a 'Disease of the Month'. In addition, a table of plant samples received over the last month with county of origin and diagnosis is provided. This list is much shorter than previous lists because most of the plants and associated pathogens are dormant during this time of year.

This report will contain information on plant disease samples received from mid-November through mid-December 2006.

County	Plant	Common Name of Disease (Pathogen)
Bartow	Leyland cypress	Bot canker (<i>Fusicoccum</i> sp.)
Bibb	Azalea	Algal leaf spot (<i>Cephaleuros virescens</i>) & Lacebug
Candler	Azalea	No disease on leaves
Carroll	Aucuba	No disease on leaves
Clarke	Daphne adora	Root & crown rots – (<i>Phytophthora</i> & <i>Pythium</i>)
Coweta	St. Augustine grass	Take-all root rot (<i>Gaeumannomyces graminis</i> var. <i>graminis</i>)
Gordon	David Viburnum	No disease on leaves; oedema on stem – likely too wet
Jasper	White succulent flowering plant	<i>Cladosporium</i> sp. & Powdery mildew (<i>Oidium</i> sp.) – likely secondary organisms on environmentally stressed plant

Morgan	Fescue	Cultural/environmental – too wet; secondary root rot (<i>Pythium</i>)
Ware	St. Augustine grass	Take-all root rot (<i>G. graminis</i> var. <i>graminis</i>)
Wilkes	Cherry Laurel	Armored Scale infestation
Wilkes	Ornamental Cherry	Shot hole (<i>Cercospora</i> sp.)
Unknown	Turf	Porous basidiomycete

HOMEOWNER UPDATE

The Homeowner IPM Plant Disease Clinic was reopened on September 1, 2006, which coincided with my official start date. During my recent visit in Baxley at the SE District CEC Update, it was brought to my attention that some additional clarity is needed about the roles of the diagnostic clinics and specialists in the Plant Pathology Department and the specific role of the clinic in Athens. The Homeowner IPM Clinic is now run in conjunction with the general Plant Diagnostic Clinic and my position has dual responsibilities as both the Homeowner IPM Specialist and Plant Diagnostician. The Homeowner Clinic, which was once located in Griffin, is now located in Athens as it was prior to 2001 and is part of the Plant Diagnostic Clinic in the Miller Plant Sciences Building, Room 2405. I diagnose all plant samples sent to Athens (both commercial and homeowner) and give recommendations for Homeowner samples only. The commercial specialists (Drs. Jean Williams-Woodward – ornamentals, Phil Brannen – fruit, and Alfredo Martinez – turf and small grains) give commercial recommendations for samples once I have diagnosed them.

Given that my position has a divided role in regards to commercial and homeowner diagnostics, discussions were initiated in early September to determine the appropriate measures needed to ensure the same quality service be given to both homeowner and commercial samples.

We decided to implement changes to the procedures by which Homeowner plant samples are submitted and processed in the clinic. We feel these changes will enhance the turnaround time to adequately diagnosis samples and give appropriate, individualized recommendations so that there is more timely and useful communication between county offices, the clinic, and homeowners. These changes and various other conditions are outlined below.

It is my hope and intention that the changes to be implemented on January 1 are positive modifications employed to enhance both the services provided by the Plant Pathology Department and the relationships between Extension Specialists in the department and county agent personnel. I am sure there will be ‘gray’ areas as we adjust to this new system and I will address any concerns that arise. In the meantime, please feel free to direct any questions and/or comments directly to me:

hthornto@uga.edu or to our department head, Dr. John Sherwood, sherwood@uga.edu.

1. As of January 1, 2007, there will be a **\$10.00 processing fee** implemented for **ALL PHYSICAL HOMEOWNER PLANT**

SAMPLES. (NOTE: the original amount was \$15.00; we have lowered this fee based on feedback received).

2. As of January 1, 2007, the DDDI image system for **Homeowner samples** will be **reopened**. There will **NOT** be a **processing fee for images**. (This is a good opportunity to polish one's digital imaging skills).
3. If a sample **cannot** be diagnosed using the **image** alone (for whatever reason), I will ask for a physical sample to be submitted to the plant clinic and there will be a **\$10.00** processing fee for that sample. (NOTE: It is therefore important to **save samples** until a response is given to the image submitted. Samples can be stored in a refrigerator for a limited period of time).
4. If we have to ask for a **'follow-up'** sample to one that has already been sent (for example, if leaves are sent and we are unable to determine the cause and ask for roots to be sent as a follow-up to the first sample), there will **NOT** be an **additional charge**.
5. If a Commercial Landscaper submits a troubleshooting sample from a homeowner's yard (turf, ornamental, fruit...) through a county office, there will **NOT** be a **processing fee**.
6. There will **NOT** be a set number of samples analyzed at no cost at this time. I will work with new county agents on an individual basis as needed to help them with plant disease diagnostics. Please feel free to contact me by phone or email. Also, I will be more than happy to work with experienced agents as well on plant disease diagnostics and questions. I do NOT want this fee to prevent agents from sending in 'bizarre' or 'questionable' samples that could be potential new diseases in Georgia or simply 'new-to-you'.
7. Checks or money orders should accompany the plant sample when shipped and be made payable to **UGA Plant Diagnostic Clinic**. Checks can be sent directly by the homeowner, similar to the process for nematode samples.
8. Submit samples online through the DDDI system prior to shipping them to the Homeowner Clinic. We will be stringent on the submission process starting in January because this change was implemented in November 2006.
 - Samples can be entered by logging onto the DDDI homepage: <http://www.dddi.org/uga/>,
 - Click on Plant Pathology,
 - Click the correct category (either Physical homeowner or homeowner image),

- Fill the required information,
 - Click 'submit',
 - Click on the sample number generated to access the form,
 - Print the form,
 - Send it with the sample.
9. Samples should be sent to the following locations based on sample type. Remember to ship samples so that they arrive early in the week during normal business hours. If a sample is received in the county agent office on a Thursday or Friday, place the sample in a refrigerator until Monday, when it can be shipped. Samples can be sent via regular mail, delivery service such as FedEx or UPS, or by State Courier.
- Sample Type: Commercial ornamentals, forestry, Christmas trees, legume forages, wood rots, mushrooms, commercial fruit, urban ornamental landscapes, turf, all homeowner samples, and small grains.
Holly Thornton
 UGA - Plant Pathology Dept.
 Rm 2106 Miller Plant Sciences Bldg.
 Athens, GA 30602-7274
 Ph 706.542.8987 Fax 706.542.4102
 - Sample Type: Tobacco, pecan, cotton, soybean, peanut, corn, kenaf, and commercial vegetables
Jason Brock
 UGA - Plant Pathology Dept.
 Tifton Plant Disease Clinic
 Room 116
 4604 Research Way
 Tifton, GA 31793
 Ph 229.386.7495 Fax 229.386.7415
 - All samples for nematode analysis
 UGA - Plant Pathology Dept.
 Nematode Laboratory
 2350 College Station Road
 Athens, GA 30602-4356
 Ph 706.542.9144 Fax 706.542.5957
10. There will be **NO** processing fee implemented for **COMMERCIAL** samples at this time.

