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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Plant</th>
<th>Common Name of Disease (Pathogen)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bartow</td>
<td>Leyland cypress</td>
<td>Bot canker (<em>Fusicoccum</em> sp.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibb</td>
<td>Azalea</td>
<td>Algal leaf spot (<em>Cephaleuros virescens</em>) &amp; Lacebug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candler</td>
<td>Azalea</td>
<td>No disease on leaves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carroll</td>
<td>Aucuba</td>
<td>No disease on leaves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarke</td>
<td>Daphne adora</td>
<td>Root &amp; crown rots – (<em>Phytophthora</em> &amp; <em>Pythium</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coweta</td>
<td>St. Augustine grass</td>
<td>Take-all root rot (<em>Gaeumannomyces graminis var. graminis</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gordon</td>
<td>David Viburnum</td>
<td>No disease on leaves; oedema on stem – likely too wet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasper</td>
<td>White succulent flowering plant</td>
<td><em>Cladosporium</em> sp. &amp; Powdery mildew (<em>Oidium</em> sp.) – likely secondary organisms on environmentally stressed plant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Plant Type</td>
<td>Disease/Infestation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morgan</td>
<td>Fescue</td>
<td>Cultural/environmental – too wet; secondary root rot (<em>Pythium</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ware</td>
<td>St. Augustine grass</td>
<td>Take-all root rot (<em>G. graminis var. graminis</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilkes</td>
<td>Cherry Laurel</td>
<td>Armored Scale infestation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilkes</td>
<td>Ornamental Cherry</td>
<td>Shot hole (<em>Cercospora sp.</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Turf</td>
<td>Porous basidiomycete</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**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**
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),

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