THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
Colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences

SEPTEMBER 2007

HOMEOWNER PLANT DISEASE CLINIC REPORT

Holly Thornton, Homeowner IPM Specialist

With only scattered showers popping up here and there across the state, it seems that Georgia and its' residents can not catch a break from the persistent dry weather. Plant samples continue to slowly stream into the disease clinic, but as previously stated, the majority of the diagnoses are not attributed to pathogenic organisms. With forecasters predicting a dry, cool winter, there does not seem to be any relief in sight.

Since disease pressure is low, I decided to take the opportunity to dedicate this month's report to proper Homeowner sample submission. I continue to get both questions about submission of Homeowner samples and samples submitted improperly. So, please take the time to read this report, and it may also be a good idea to give a copy to your county office secretaries. Enjoy the report and as always, feel free to email or call me with questions and/or concerns about any homeowner issue or plant diagnostic clinic issue.

SEPTEMBER 2007 Homeowner Samples

County	Plant	Common Name of Disease (Pathogen)	Type of Sample – DDDI or Physical
Atkinson	Pomegranate	Fruit rot	DDDI
Bibb	Zoysia	No disease – cultural (improper watering & management)	Both
Bibb	Zoysia	No disease – cultural problems	Physical
Chatham	Turf	Chinch bugs & Take all root rot (*Gaeumannomyces graminis*)	Physical
Cherokee	*Euonymus kiautschovicus*	No disease – Slime mold	DDDI
Clarke	Bermuda/Zoysia	Insufficient sample	Physical
Clarke	Staghorn Fern	No disease – cultural stress	Physical

County	Plant	Common Name of Disease (Pathogen)	Type of Sample – DDDI or Physical
		(improper care)	
Cobb	Magnolia	No disease	Physical
Cobb	Zoysia	Large patch (*Rhizoctonia solani*) & Root rot (*Pythium* sp.)	Physical
Columbia	Oak (Blue Japanese)	Chestnut blight (*Endothiella* sp. canker)	Physical
Coweta	Various plants	No disease – transplant shock & cultural	DDDI
DeKalb	St. Augustine	Take all root rot (*G. graminis*)	Both
Dooly	St. Augustine	Take all root rot (*G. graminis*), Large patch (*R. solani*), & root rot (*Pythium* sp.)	Physical
Dooly	Centipede	Possible Fairy ring (clamp connection mycelia found)	Physical
Dooly	Centipede	Take all root rot (*G. graminis*)	Physical
Dougherty	Grancy Gray Beard (Fringetree)	Bacterial slime flux/wetwood	DDDI
Dougherty	Decaying Wood	No disease – Slime mold (*Stemonitis*)	DDDI
Dougherty	Indian Hawthorne	Unable to determine (cultural problems – improper planting)	Physical
Evans	Fig	No disease – Environmental & nutritional stresses	Physical
Fayette	St. Augustine	Take all root rot (*G. graminis*)	Physical
Fayette	St. Augustine	Chinch bug, Take all root rot (*G. graminis*), & cultural	Physical
Fayette	Poplar tree	Leaf spot	DDDI
Floyd	Centipede	Take all root rot (*G. graminis*) & cultural (very dry, thatch, heavy, compacted soils)	Physical
Forsyth	Fig	Borers (possible Ambrosia beetles)	DDDI
Franklin	Zoysia	Take all root rot (*G. graminis*)	Physical
Grady	Hydrangea	No disease – possible insect damage	Physical
Grady	Hydrangea	Possible *Cercospora* leaf spot	DDDI
Grady	Rose	Environmental stress (drought & heat) & possible *Cercospora* leaf spot	DDDI
Gwinnett	Centipede	Possible Fairy ring (clamp connection mycelium present) & cultural (heavy, compacted,	Physical

County	Plant	Common Name of Disease (Pathogen)	Type of Sample – DDDI or Physical
		clay soils)	
Gwinnett	Viburnum	Possible root rot or drought stress	DDDI
Gwinnett	*Chamaecyparis pisifera*	Unable to determine (possible root rot)	DDDI
Henry	Spirea & pine	Cultural problems – incorrect watering	Both
Jefferson	Bermuda grass	No disease – cultural (compacted dry soils)	Physical
Jefferson	Apple Tree	Possible Bot canker (*Botryosphaeria* sp.)	DDDI
Jenkins	Swamp Chestnut	No disease – scorch	DDDI
Lee	Water oaks	Possible root rot & compounded stresses (lightning)	DDDI
Lee	Oak	Canker (*Nectria* sp.)	DDDI
Lee	St. Augustine	Unable to determine	DDDI
Madison	Blueberry	No disease – Environmental stresses (cold damage & drought)	Physical
Morgan	Zoysia	No disease – Cultural	DDDI
Newton	Yew	Unable to determine (possible insect damage & sooty mold)	DDDI
Newton	Pomegranate	Possible heart rot (*Alternaria* sp.)	DDDI
Oconee	Leucothoe axillaris	No disease – Environmental damage – heat & drought; Powdery mildew	Physical
Rabun	Oak	Compounded stresses	Physical
Schley	Mushroom	Possible *Fuligo septica*	DDDI
Stephens	St. Augustine	Take all rot rot (*G. graminis*) & Chinch bugs	Physical
Ware	Turf	Take all root rot (*G. graminis*)	Physical
Ware	Turf	Immature chinch bugs & cultural (*Curvularia*)	Physical
Ware	Turf	Take all root rot (*G. graminis*)	Physical
Ware	Turf	Chinch bugs, Take all root rot (*G. graminis*), & Cultural (improper mowing & thatch)	Physical
Ware	Turf	Large Patch (*R. solani*), Take all root rot (*G. graminis*), & Cultural (improper mowing)	Physical
Ware	Turf	No disease – Cultural	Physical

County	Plant	Common Name of Disease (Pathogen)	Type of Sample – DDDI or Physical
		(improper mowing & thatch)	
Ware	Turf	Take all root rot (*G. graminis*)	Physical
Ware	St. Augustine	Take all root rot (*G. graminis*)	Physical
Webster	Rose	No disease – Environmental stress (scorch)	Both
Total Samples (late-August to late-September) = 54			

HOMEOWNER SAMPLE SUBMISSION

Hopefully by the end of this report, you will have homeowner sample submission mastered. Starting Fall 2006, the Homeowner IPM Clinic reopened after being closed for nearly a year. The reopening of the clinic coincided with me being hired as **BOTH** the Homeowner IPM specialist **AND** the general diagnostician for various plant samples (see below). As of January 1, 2007, the method in which homeowner plant disease samples were submitted to the diagnostic clinic changed. This was due to several factors, two of which include: 1) a better tracking system for homeowner samples by submitting the samples online **prior** to shipment through the DDDI system, and 2) quicker turnaround time for both homeowner and commercial samples that are diagnosed in the Athens clinic (see below).

I will provide a step-by-step process by which to submit physical HOMEOWNER plant disease samples. Please keep a copy of this handy in your local offices. Please give a copy to your county secretaries if they submit samples, so they will know the process. If there are additional questions or areas that I neglect to address, please feel free to call or email me.

I am responsible for the diagnosis of all the following samples. For commercial plant samples, I diagnose the problem and the commercial specialist for that particular plant/commodity provides the recommendation. Therefore, if you are waiting on a recommendation, please contact the specialist responsible for that particular sample (listed below):

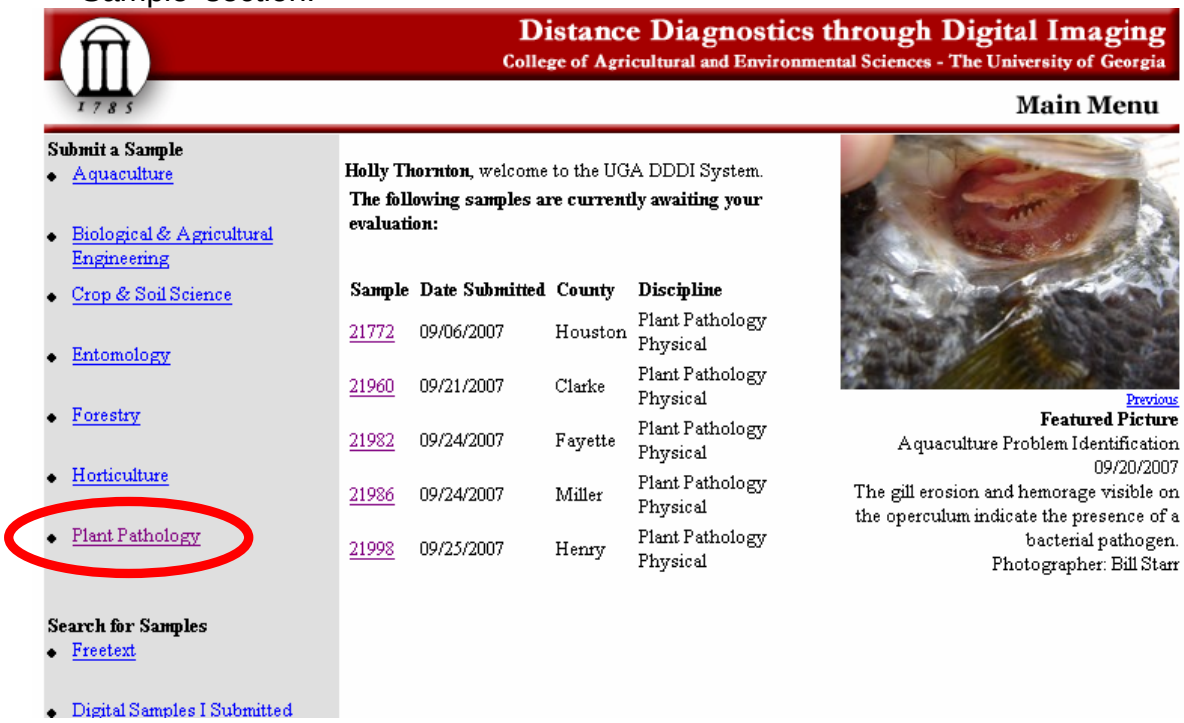
- ALL HOMEOWNER samples (specialist: Holly Thornton)
- Commercial fruit (specialist: Dr. Phil Brannen)
- Commercial ornamentals (specialist: Dr. Jean Williams-Woodward)
- Commercial turf (specialist: Dr. Alfredo Martinez)
- Commercial forestry (specialist: Dr. Jean Williams-Woodward)
- Urban ornamental landscapes (specialist: Holly Thornton)
- Small grains (specialist: Dr. Alfredo Martinez)
- Legume forages (specialist: Dr. Jean Williams-Woodward)
- Christmas trees (specialist: Dr. Jean Williams-Woodward)
- Mushrooms & wood rots (specialist: Holly Thornton)

IF THE SAMPLE IS **NOT** LISTED HERE, THEN IT LIKELY GOES TO THE **TIFTON DIAGOSTIC CLINIC.**

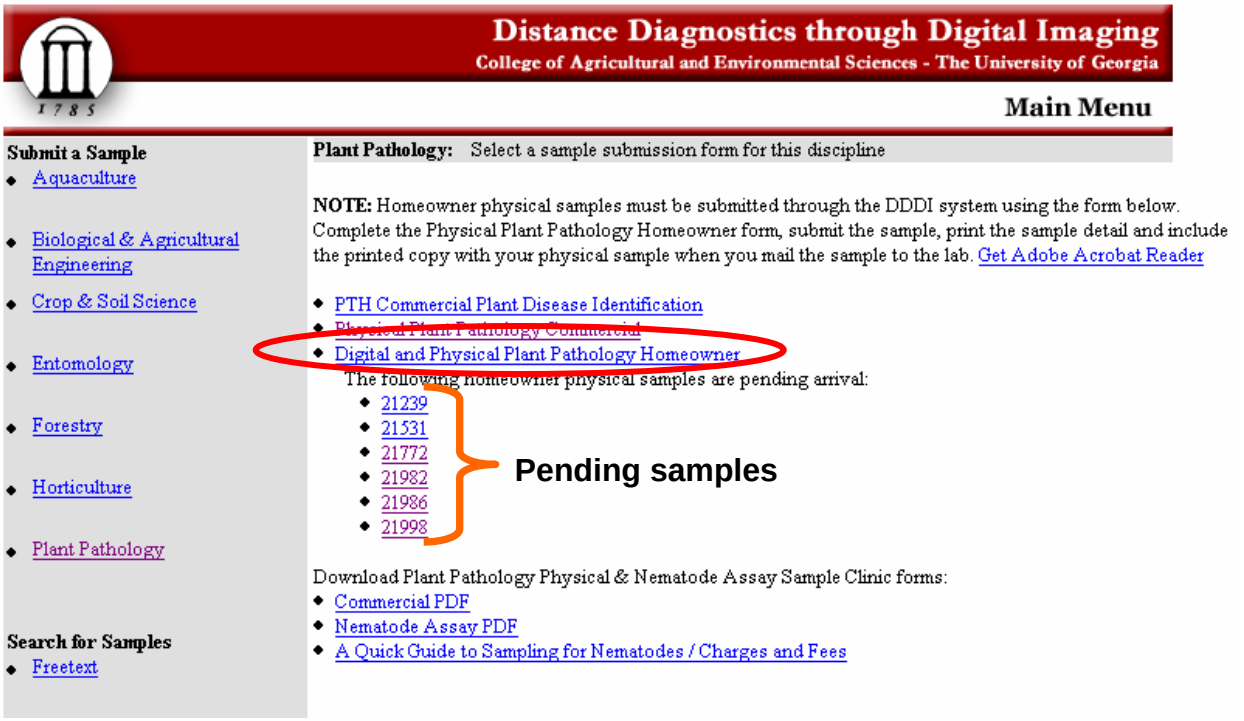
As you can see, I am responsible for the diagnoses of a large number and variety of samples. I try to diagnose them as quickly as possible so that either I or the specific commercial specialist can provide the recommendation as timely as possible. This is why PROPER sample submission is vital!!!

HOW TO SUBMIT A PHYSICAL HOMEOWNER SAMPLE:

1) Have the homeowner fill out the NEW homeowner form. (This form is very similar to the old form used). You can acquire one of these forms by **emailing me**.
2) Log onto the DDDI (distance diagnostics through digital imaging) system. If you do not have a username & password, then click 'Request an Account'.
3) Once logged onto the system, click on the 'Plant Pathology' category, located in the left sidebar (gray background). It is the last option under the 'Submit a Sample' section.



4) Then click the 'Digital and Physical Plant Pathology Homeowner' option shown below (circled in red).



5) Next, simply type the information that was filled out on the physical Homeowner form by the homeowner into the appropriate places. The first screen will be 'Client information'. The next screen will be identical to physical form.
6) Fill out the information regarding the plant sample in question (all questions in red must be filled out). It is important to click whether the sample being submitted is:
    a. Digital only
    b. Physical only
    c. Digital and physical
7) As you will notice, this is the same process you would have to complete to submit a DIGITAL IMAGE. **Therefore, the process up to this point is the same for a digital sample as it is for a physical sample**.
8) If you have pictures to include (for example, if this is a 'digital & physical' sample), then you can upload your pictures from your computer or disk.
9) Once all the appropriate information is typed into the online form, click submit. This will generate a sample number and send me an email indicating that a physical sample has been submitted. If you look at the image above, you can see pending samples (**orange bracket**).
10) Print the form that is generated (you may want to print 2 copies – one to keep in the office).
11) **This is the form that is sent in with the physical homeowner plant sample.** If the form printed out does not have a five digit sample number, then it is NOT the correct form.
12) Place the form in an envelope.
13) Starting January 1, 2007, there is now a **$10 PROCESSING FEE** for ALL PHYSICAL HOMEOWNER SAMPLES. Please make the check payable to **'Plant Disease Clinic'** and place the check in the envelope with the typed/printed submission form. **THE PAYMENT IS TO BE SENT IN WITH THE SAMPLE.** We

do not send an invoice after the sample is processed. We expect payment along with the sample.

14) Therefore, please be sure that the sample submission form and the check/payment are kept separately from the plant sample, so that they do not get wet or damaged. I suggest placing both the form and the payment in an envelope and possibly in a Ziploc bag.

HOW TO PACKAGE A PLANT DISEASE SAMPLE:

THIS IS A PROPERLY PACKAGED TURF SAMPLE.

The turf is wrapped in newspaper, which helps absorb any additional moisture in the sample AND the correct form is submitted along with payment. The form & payment was kept separately from the sample so it did not get wet or damaged.

THIS IS NOT A PROPERLY PACKAGED TURF SAMPLE.

1) The sample was not submitted properly – online through the DDDI system.
2) The sample submission form is the incorrect form – there is no sample number.
3) The sample submission form is not separately from the sample.
4) The form was not completely filled out.
5) There was NO payment with the sample.

A diagnosis and recommendation given will reflect BOTH the quality of the sample and the amount of information provided.

A properly submitted and packaged sample!

An improperly submitted & packaged sample!

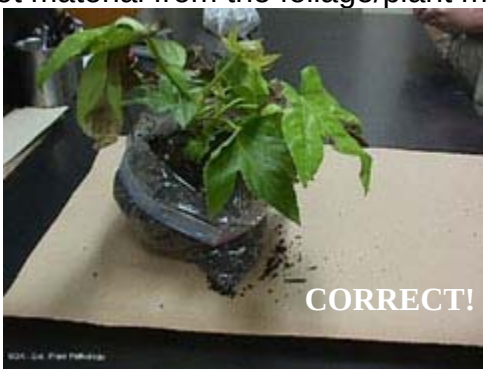
1) The sample was not submitted properly online through the DDDI system.
2) The samples are not properly packaged in sealed bags so that the soil from the turf did not get on the other sample and also to ensure the sample does not dry out.
3) There was no payment with either sample.

We provide a detailed description of how to properly package a sample on our webpage, so I will not repeat the whole process here. Please visit our clinic homepage for further instructions: http://plantpath.caes.uga.edu/extension/howtosubmit.html.

TIPS:

- Place the sample in a sealable bag (Ziploc). This will help to keep the sample fresh.
- **Ship samples early in the week**. This will ensure that they don't sit in a UGA mailroom over the weekend. If you get a sample on a Friday, place the sample in a sealable bag in the fridge until Monday.
- Send DYING TISSUE. This means both live and dead/dying tissue. Try to get a sample the shows the margin of live and dead tissue (see below). If you send completely dead tissue, we will likely tell you 'unable to diagnose' or 'to dry/dead to diagnose' and you will have to collect an additional sample.

- If submitting root tissue, place the root ball or roots in a separate bag (if possible) or separate the soil/root material from the foliage/plant material.



- If submitting fruit, select fresh specimens and send immediately because these are likely to decay very quickly. Please place the fruit into a Ziploc bag with a DRY paper to absorb any additional moisture. The sample below has **not** been **shipped** correctly – sample was not placed in a bag and therefore, the sample submission sheet got wet from the rotting fruit. And the fruit also got banged up in the box causing further damage, which could affect the diagnosis.

WHERE TO SEND SAMPLES:

ATHENS CLINIC:

Christmas trees, commercial fruit and ornamentals, forestry, homeowner samples, legume forages, mushrooms & wood rots, turf and small grains, urban ornamental landscapes

Address: Plant Disease Clinic
Holly Thornton
2106 Miller Plant Sciences Bldg.
Athens, GA 30602

TIFTON CLINIC:

Tobacco, pecan, cotton, soybean, peanut, corn, kenaf, commercial vegetables

Address: Tifton Plant Disease Clinic
Jason Brock
Room 116
4604 Research Way
Tifton, GA 31793