MSU EXTENSION GARDEN HELPLINE

MSU Extension
Kalamazoo County
Horticulture Helpline
Services
(269) 384-8056
mghelp@anr.msu.edu

SERVICES

- Identification of plants, diseases and insects
- Information on effective growing practices
- Information on selecting plant varieties
- Information on control practices for insects & diseases
- Samples accepted at the Master Gardener Booth at locations throughout the community (information also available)

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Master Gardener Helpline – Kalamazoo County
(269) 384-8056 mghelp@anr.msu.edu

Located at the MSU Extension Office
3299 Gull Rd., Wing 2, 4th Floor, Rm. 410
Kalamazoo, MI
Office Hours: M – F, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

HOW TO SUBMIT A SAMPLE

Accurate diagnosis depends on the rapid receipt of fresh, intact samples along with a completed form containing pertinent information from the client.

Plant Samples:
Herbaceous Plants – Send whole plants, including roots and soil. Roots and soil should be in a plastic bag to prevent soil from touching foliage.

Tree Decline / Wilt – Send 6 to 12 branch sections ½ inch to 1 inch diameter and 8 inches long. Branches should be taken from live areas of tree with symptoms, not from completely dead branches. Seal branches in plastic to retain moisture.

Seedlings – Leave plants in plug sheets or trays if possible; send 0-12 seedlings.

Turf – Include a 4”x4 x3” square of turf from the margin of the diseased area so that **both healthy and diseased turf is included.** An intact layer of soil should be included. Detailed description of cultural practices is helpful and so are pictures.

Pictures can be extremely helpful. Photos of entire plant and close-up of affected area are especially helpful.

HOW TO SUBMIT INSECT SAMPLES

For precise identification of insects, **specimens must be undamaged upon arrival**. It is very important to kill and send the specimens in a manner that will not damage delicate structure that aid their identification. **Attaching the specimen to scotch tape is not recommended**. Placing specimens in a small leak-proof vial or bottle with rubbing alcohol or white vinegar is ideal. Photos can also be helpful.

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