



International Plant Sentinel Network

Taking Photographs
for Diagnostic
Purposes



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Introduction

- Pictures are a great way for diagnosticians to make initial assessments of samples.
- Photos will not be used to diagnose a plant pest or pathogen, instead they will be used to determine whether a physical sample is required for further investigation
- Feel free to use smart phones, small cameras etc. It will depend on what you are photographing (they are often not suitable for macro) but they usually give pretty good resolution

The Ideal Submission...

For the best chances of identification:

- Include 3 to 4 photographs; from different distances, showing varying damage
- Be of good quality
- Be in-focus
- Be no larger than 1Mb
- Include text



Photos taken using a smart phone

What to Take Pictures of...

Take pictures representative of the problem



Pests (when possible)
or traces of pests



Damage and/or symptoms
(the more detail the better)



If roots are exposed, include pictures
showing any damage/deformities

Light & Exposure

Light is important, try to take pictures in good light conditions considering:

- The intensity - avoid extremes like shadows or over-exposure (as pictured left)
- The source/quality of light – try different sources, e.g. natural or artificial light, use of the camera flash



Focus, Background & Scale

- Hold the camera steady, and get as close to the subject as possible whilst still being in focus
- Use contrasting backgrounds so detail can be seen clearly
- Use a familiar item to give an idea of scale



Accompanying Text

ALWAYS include text with photos detailing:

- Who – took/sent the photographs, contact info
- What – is the host, your main concern, the main symptoms
- When – were the symptoms first observed
- Where – vague description of surrounding environment including whether any other surrounding species show any symptoms
- How – has the site been treated, has there been any dramatic changes in management, use of pesticides, fertilisers etc.

Key Rules

- Send 3 to 4 good, in focus, quality photographs, bearing in mind:
 - Light and exposure
 - Background and scale
- Photographs should depict damage representative of the problem
- Always include text to give context



More Information

Photography for diagnosis module:

http://www.npdn.org/first_detector_training_modules

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-924gbs>



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