

# CCMG Plant Diagnostic Guidelines

6/11/2008

## PLANT INFORMATION

- Name of the plant; common name, botanical if known and cultivar.
- Complete description: Age, height, width, flower color and time, deciduous, evergreen
- Location: sun, shade, slope

### Problem description:

- Time of year problem first noticed
- Is the plant wilting, yellowing, dying? Entire plant or branches?
- Leaves—are there holes in the leaves? Describe.
- Are the leaves wilting, smaller than normal, stippled, dry, brown at the margins, on older or newer leaves?
- Flowers—did they fail to develop, rot, full of holes, drop off?
- Trunk/Stems—are there galls, cankers, swellings, cracking, bleeding, conks?
- Roots—are they slimy, smell like mushrooms, rotting, galls, missing?
- Prevalence—Is this happening on one plant or many?

## CULTURE

- Irrigation—what kind, how often, source, quality
- Exposure—describe the microclimate, wind patterns, sun
- Chemical use—fertilizers, pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides) how much, how often—ask about neighbors use if known.
- Soil—type, amendments, % mulch, compaction, drainage
- Changes—any alterations in the local environment over the past ten years that are known
- Weather—recent heat, cold, wind, hail, rain patterns

## INSECTS

- Description of damage—leaves chewed with ragged holes, smooth holes, rolled, tunneled into? Are there holes in the bark of stems or trunks? Is the stem girdled? (Chewing/Rasping insects)
- Leaves stippled, spotted, distorted, curled or puckered could be symptoms of sucking insects
- If the insect available describe shape—round, rectangular, linear
- Are the antennae clubbed, straight, long, short, feathery?
- How does it move? Quickly, slowly, hops, slithers, flies

Recommend that if at all possible, samples be *brought* into the office. Bring insects in sealed containers. Plant material needs to be dying, not dead, and as fresh as possible—in “zip” plastic bags with a damp paper towel.