

SICK PLANT CLINIC



Sponsored by: **THE SHAWNEE COUNTY EXTENSION MASTER GARDENERS** (a volunteer program of the KSU-Shawnee County Extension Council)

If you have an ailing plant, or a “mystery” plant, take advantage of this opportunity to bring in a sample for diagnosis or identification.

WHEN: Thursday, July 5

TIME: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

WHERE: In the mall at Fairlawn Plaza Shopping Center (21st & Fairlawn)

This event is designed to help people with their ailing plants including ornamentals (trees, shrubs, flowers), vegetables, fruit crops, turfgrass, and indoor plants. Master Gardener volunteers, local Extension personnel, and specialists from the Departments of Plant Pathology and Horticulture at Kansas State University will be on hand to diagnose plant problems, identify plants, weeds and insects and discuss general pest care.

The Sick Plant Clinic is sponsored by the Shawnee County Extension Master Gardeners (a volunteer program of the KSU-Shawnee County Extension Council).

If you have an ailing plant, insect problem or weed infestation, take advantage of this opportunity to bring in a sample for diagnosis or identification. See reverse for a checklist of pertinent information so that you can be prepared for the specialist's questions.



Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

COLLECTING PLANT SAMPLES FOR DIAGNOSIS

- Tree and shrub samples** - should consist of a section of twig or branch, with leaves attached; multiple samples that reflect different stages of the problem are helpful
- Garden Crops and Annual Flowers** - include entire plant with roots intact
- Perennial Flowers and Ground Covers** - try to dig portion of the affected part (with some roots)
- Turfgrass** - samples should be six to eight inches across and a couple of inches deep, taken at the interface between good and bad grass (with some of each)
- Plant Identification** - the presence of flowers makes weed or landscape plant identification easier
- Insect Identification** - insects with all body parts intact are easier to identify

Handling Insect Samples:

- Fleshy Caterpillars and "Worms"* - place in a liquid tight container of white vinegar
- Moths and Butterflies* - place in a freezer for 24 hours - then place in a crush-proof box cushioned with tissue paper (never cotton - legs and antennae get tangled up in cotton and break off)
- Hard Bodied Beetles* - white vinegar or freezing is acceptable

CHECKLIST OF PERTINENT INFORMATION

1. Kind of plant - variety?
2. How long has it been established in its present location? - has it recently been transplanted?
3. Exposure - N E S W - full sun or shade?
4. What is the nature of the soil? - tight clay, drainage (surface and internal).
5. When did the problem first appear this season - was a similar problem experienced last year?
6. Are any other plants in the vicinity similarly affected? Is there a walnut tree in the vicinity?
7. What part of the plant was affected first? Top or bottom, which side?
8. Has there been any construction near the plant? How recently? Have underground utilities been installed or replaced near the plant recently?
9. Is the soil around the plant subject to foot or vehicular traffic that could lead to compaction? Is there pavement near the plant?
10. Have there been any weed killers used nearby? If so, what and when? Has salt or other ice melting material been used nearby?
11. What are the symptoms that have appeared? How have they progressed? Is there any pattern of development?
12. What program of watering and fertilizing has been followed?
13. Have there been any fungicides or insecticides used on the plant? If so, what and when?
14. Is there evidence of mechanical damage to the plant (e.g. lawn mower/nylon cord trimmer) - Are stem girdling roots visible at the base of the tree?
15. Are there any suspicious insects present? What do they look like?