

Please provide the following information when submitting samples for tree problem identification.

Tree/Shrub Troubleshooting Triage:

1. What kind of tree do you have? Native or Planted?
2. Describe the symptoms or problem you are having?
3. Approximately how old is the tree or when was the tree planted (if new)?
4. When was the last time the soil was tested?
5. What type of fertilizer has been used and how much (if any)?
6. Has any lime or sulfur been used in the area?
7. Has any construction, root-disturbing activities, trenching, landscape renovation, or heavy equipment been near the tree or shrub?
8. Has any physical damage occurred to the tree trunk or bark i.e. lawn mower bumping roots/trunks, bark splitting, lightening, etc.?
9. Have you noticed any sap residues or sawdust on the main trunk or any limbs?
10. Was the tree recently pruned—correctly?
11. Have any weed & feed products or herbicides been used on lawn areas adjacent to the tree?
12. Do you have any pets that enjoy using the tree as a "marking" post?
13. When did you first notice the problem and has it appeared to get worse since you first noticed it?
14. During planting the trees, did you remove all burlap, wire cages, and strings from the root ball?
15. At planting, did you incorporate any top-soil amendments into the hole and approximately how much, if any?
16. Did this tree appear to put on more or less new growth this spring compared to adjacent trees?
17. How often do you water the tree and how many gallons or inches per week?
18. Have there been any extreme weather conditions i.e. drought, late frost, high winds, etc.?
19. How deep is the mulch or pine straw around the tree and what type of mulch?
20. Could you provide a digital image of the tree and/or submit a physical sample?

A sample including dead and healthy leaves on branches at least 6 to 8" inches long would be a decent sample. You can bring samples by our office Monday through Friday from 8am - noon and 1 - 5pm. Please take fresh samples on the day that you are coming to the Extension office and keep cool (out of direct sunlight) and in a dry zip-lock bag. There is no charge for troubleshooting at our office.