

## Resources for Plant Health Diagnosis for Home Gardeners

**ONLINE TOOLS:** If you notice your plant is unable to thrive, and there is no obvious culprit, there are many resources available to you at University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program ([ipm.ucanr.edu](http://ipm.ucanr.edu)) online. You can search on a wide variety of plants to get information on optimum growing conditions, common disorders and diseases.

- The UC IPM website can be used to help diagnose and manage thousands of plant pest problems. such as Citrus Diseases and Disorders of Leaves and Twigs here: <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/C107/m107bpleaftwigdis.html>
- And Pest Management Guidelines here: <https://www2.ipm.ucanr.edu/agriculture/> . Please note that the pesticides listed here are for commercial production only.
- There are also sources from Cooperative Extension in other states and USDA. For example, a Citrus Disease ID Tool with a gallery of citrus maladies provided by the USDA and University of Florida on here: <https://idtools.org/id/citrus/diseases/index.php>

In your quest for information, be certain you use reputable science-based sources specific to your geographic region from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the State Agriculture Departments and University Extension Services.

### **DECISION-MAKING:**

1. If you are in the “What should I do?” phase in discovering a pest problem, and you have not reached a decision using online diagnostics, you may want to consider discussing the issue with local experienced gardeners who offer guidance through the UCCE Master Gardener’s of San Diego Hotline (858) 822-6910 or contact them by Email here: <https://www.mastergardenersd.org/emailcontact.php>

**Call the Hotline: (858) 822-6910**

***Questions will be answered by our Hotline All Stars.***

**And it's FREE!**

2. A local resource if you have non-specific palm, oak or tree maladies is the Professional Tree Care Association of San Diego here: <https://ptcaosd.wildapricot.org/>. You can search their directory for a licensed arborist and with appropriate pesticide applicator licenses for the care of your trees.

**STATEWIDE RESOURCES:** If you have used the local Agricultural Commissioner’s Office and all the resources above, and you believe your plant malady to be unique or invasive, you might consider shipping your sample directly to the CDFA. Before you ship, please contact the Report a Pest Hotline or Sighting Form for guidance.

CDFA REPORT A PEST HOTLINE: 1-800-491-1899

CDFA REPORT A PEST SIGHTING FORM:

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/reportapest/form/reportapestform.pdf>

SUBMITTING SAMPLES: California Department of Agriculture Plant Pest Diagnostics Center in Sacramento can identify plants, insects, nematodes, diseases, and seeds and assist growers meeting export requirements. Please see the website for more information for the fees and arrangements here: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/ppd/> and specifically Plant Pathology here: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/ppd/plantpath.html>

Submitting a carefully collected sample is key to successful diagnosis from the scientist. Basic guidelines on how to take a sample for CDFA Plant Pest Diagnostics are described at these links below:

- Plant Pathology

[https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/ppd/PDF/Submission\\_guidelines\\_Plant\\_Pathology.pdf](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/ppd/PDF/Submission_guidelines_Plant_Pathology.pdf)

- Nematology

[https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/ppd/PDF/Submission\\_guidelines\\_Nematology.pdf](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/ppd/PDF/Submission_guidelines_Nematology.pdf)

- Botany

[https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/ppd/PDF/Submission\\_guidelines\\_Botany.pdf](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/ppd/PDF/Submission_guidelines_Botany.pdf)

- Entomology

[https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/ppd/PDF/Submission\\_guidelines\\_Entomology.pdf](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/ppd/PDF/Submission_guidelines_Entomology.pdf)

We hope the above guidance helps you determine what maladies are affecting your plants and/or trees. Once you begin to observe your landscape regularly you will gain experience in knowing when your plants and trees need care. We hope these guidelines help you improve your plant health.