What does the Plant Health Laboratory Do?

- Diagnoses plant health problems including infectious agents (fungi, bacteria, viruses, phytoplasma) and abiotic disorders
- Provides insect identifications
- Supports surveillance of established and non-established plant pests throughout B.C.
- Provides laboratory support for cooperative applied research projects
- Provides limited soil testing for pH and EC readings only

What does the Plant Health Laboratory Not Do?

- Identify nematodes or mushrooms
- Identify or isolate fungi or bacteria from soil, water, feed or air (with the exception of clubroot detection in soil)
- Test viability of plant tissue.
- Analyze plant tissue or soil for nutrients or chemical residues
- Test for pest resistance to pesticides.
- Identify plant species, varieties or weeds
- Identify strain, race, mating type, pathovar or anastomosis group of pathogens.
- Conduct or support crop certification programs for freedom from plant diseases, whether formal or informal
- Conduct seed testing for purity, germination or disease accreditation

Hours of operation:
8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
Monday to Friday
Call Toll Free: 1-800-661-9903

British Columbia
Ministry of Agriculture

Plant Health Laboratory

Web Address: www.gov.bc.ca/planthealth

go to Plant Health Laboratory Section
An accurate and timely diagnosis is a crucial first step to implementing appropriate pest management strategies. The B.C. Ministry of Agriculture’s (BCAGRI) Plant Health Laboratory (PHL), located in the Abbotsford Agriculture Centre, operates throughout the year to provide plant disease and insect identification support to commercial growers, ministry staff, researchers, consultants and sales representatives serving the agriculture industry in B.C. The Plant Health Laboratory has been providing plant health diagnostics and contributing to surveillance of plant health threats, associated research and educational programs.

**Who may submit samples?**
If you are a producer, industry association, government agency, agribusiness (consultant, sales representative and landscaper) and/or home gardener, you can send samples to the lab.

**What information should you provide?**
Fill and attach Plant Health Laboratory Sample Submission Form to provide:
- Personal contact information (address, phone, fax or email)
- Detailed information about the problem such as:
  - Details on symptoms
  - When was problem first noticed?
  - Is the problem spreading?
  - How many plants or percentage of field are affected?
  - Type of plant, age, condition of surrounding plants
  - Site description (drainage, exposure, weather, irrigation etc.)
  - Pesticide and fertilizer use (type, rate and date)
  - Past and future crops information

**What to submit – Sample and related information**
Specimens must be fresh and representative of the range of symptoms that are seen in the field. A dried out sample leaves little to work with. A rotten deteriorated sample cannot be diagnosed.

Instructions on how to package and send a sample to the lab are available on the PHL Sample Submission Form (available from your local B.C. Ministry of Agriculture district office, at the back of the Production Guides or our web page). Fill out the lab diagnostic submission form as thoroughly as possible to assist us in getting a better picture of what is happening in the field. Send (drop in, mail or courier) packaged samples along with a completed submission form and appropriate payment to the address on the front page.

**How to submit samples**

**Mission**
Contribute to the British Columbia’s environmental, social and economic goals and values by performing state-of-the-art plant health diagnostics and contributing to surveillance of plant health threats, associated research and educational programs.

**Vision**
B.C.’s agricultural and natural plant resources are protected from plant health threats.

**Fees**
The Plant Health Laboratory charges a fee for providing diagnostic services to its clients. Current fees are listed on the lab diagnostic submission form (see web page).

**Who receives the diagnostic report?**
Results are sent to the submitter unless otherwise requested. Information on individual submissions is kept confidential.