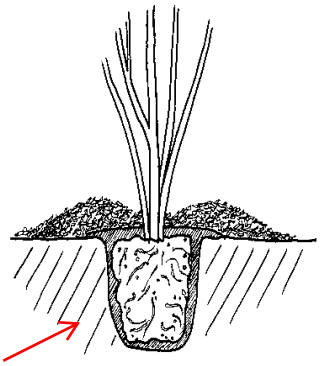
BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Plant Health Laboratory

# How to Submit Cannabis Plants for Diagnosis

1. Ensure the sample is representative of the problem.
2. Send plants that are still alive, NOT dead, and that express the symptoms well.
3. If you are not sure how to take a sample, call the laboratory for advice.

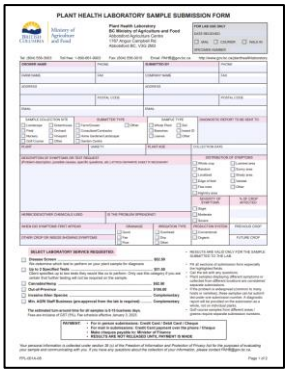

**Good samples**. These plants show symptoms and are not dead. (Any plant from row 1, 3 and 4 is good for a sample, a few plants in row 2 are too far gone).



Include pot/field soil from the root zone in the sample.

**Poor sample**. Plant in the picture above is dead. Do not send this.

4. Specimens must be fresh, not with decaying tissue. To ensure freshness, plants should be sent the same day they are collected or refrigerated until shipment.
5. Include at least one cup of soil from the root zone for pH and EC reading.
6. To preserve roots, dig up plants rather than pulling them. If plants are potted, send the whole pot. Double bag the base of plants and secure at the crown to prevent roots from drying.
7. When sampling from multiple plants, use sterile technique to keep from spreading any disease-causing pathogens between plants.
8. Do not expose the sample to heating or freezing.
9. Send samples in before applying any pesticides, if possible.
10. Fill out our submission form (www.gov.bc.ca/planthealth) with as much information as possible.
11. Package the whole sample (double bag to minimize escape of volatiles), enclose payment, the submission form, and send or deliver to the address below.




Plant Health Laboratory Submission Form

**The laboratory may decline to accept poorly packaged or decayed samples.**

If a whole plant cannot be submitted, follow instructions on the next page.

THE LAB DIAGNOSES PEST AND DISEASE ISSUES. WE DO NOT CONDUCT NUTRIENT, CHEMICAL OR PESTICIDE ANALYSES OR DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE CANNABIS PLANTS.

**Plant Health Laboratory**
BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food
1767 Angus Campbell Road
Abbotsford, BC V3G 2M3
Tel: 604-556-3003
Toll-Free: 1-888-661-9903

September 2023

# If a whole plant cannot be submitted, follow the below instructions.

A whole plant does not need to be submitted when you suspect a specific problem and are looking for confirmation, however, a follow-up sample of other plant parts may be required.

## Bud Samples

Bud samples can be analyzed for fungi, bacteria, viruses and insects. Pathogens that affect buds may be present on leaves and stems as well, therefore a whole plant would give a better assessment of the problem.

## Blossom Samples

Blossom samples can be analyzed for bacteria, fungi, viruses and insects. Symptoms may be an indication of what is happening in the buds, stems or roots.

## Leaf Samples

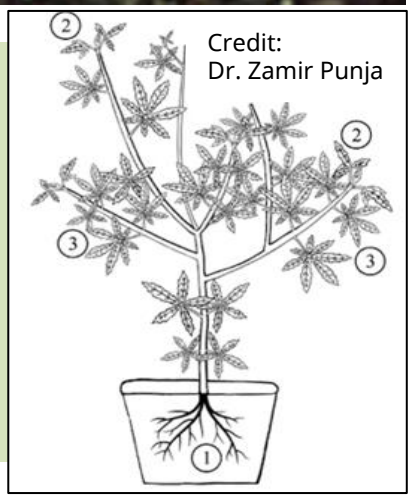
Leaf samples can be analyzed for bacteria, fungi, viruses and insects. Some symptoms may be an indication of what is happening in the roots. Enclose symptomatic leaves in a Ziploc bag. Do not include wet paper towel in the bag.

## Branch or Stem Samples

Branch/stem samples can be analyzed for fungi, bacteria and insect damage if symptomatic tissue is submitted. Usually, the crown and roots are necessary for proper evaluation of the cause of the problem.

## Root and Soil Samples

Roots can be checked for root rot, HLVd, and insect damage. Based on ongoing research findings, roots are the preferred sample type for HLVd testing. **For HLVd testing**, use sterile technique to collect 3-5 upper lateral roots (Area 1 in photo) that are at least 2 inches long from each plant and place in a Ziploc bag. Young leaves (Area 2) or older leaves (Area 3) are the second and third best sample types, respectively. **For pH and EC** testing, representative soil samples from the root-ball and field/pot should be submitted.




Credit:
Dr. Zamir Punja

**ALL SAMPLES SHOULD BE ENCLOSED IN DOUBLE PLASTIC BAGS AND KEPT FROM OVERHEATING OR FREEZING**