



Fruit and Vegetable Diagnostic Checklist: More Rapid Responses to Grower Questions by Knowing What to Ask

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When a grower brings in a fruit or vegetable sample to the Extension office or calls on the phone, the more you know about the sample, the better. Questions in this checklist are designed to assist in diagnosing issues quickly and accurately.

Questions to ask for all crops:

- Crop?
- Variety?
- Number of plants affected (number out of how many or percentage of acreage)?
- Is there a pattern to the plants affected (randomly distributed, all in one row, all clustered together in a patch concentrated on one end/side of the field, etc.)?
- Where on the plant do you see symptoms (older leaves near bottom of the plant or basal leaves on shoots, younger leaves at top of plant or upper parts of new shoots, stem or trunk near the soil line, leaves only, fruit only, stem or trunk only, or whole plant)?
- Field conditions for the season (Any particularly wet periods? Drought periods? Extreme events (hail, late frost, etc.)?)
- Crops grown in field previously, especially last season?
- Root condition of affected plants?
- Any insects observed in the field or suspected insect feeding?
- When was the last soil test taken? What is the soil pH?
- Have plant tissue samples been submitted for nutrient analysis?
- What has been done for nutrient management?
- Have any amendments been incorporated (i.e., manure, compost, grass clippings, etc.)?
- What has been done for insect management?
- What has been done for disease management?
- What has been done for weed management?
- How is the crop being irrigated (overhead, trickle/drip, none)?
- What is the source of irrigation water?

Additional fruit-specific questions:

- How old are the plants?
- How often are they pruned? When was the last pruning?
- Were they affected by an early fall freeze or late spring freeze?
- What are the rootstock and scion varieties?