

Sampling procedure for successful Weed ID

Accurate weed identification is the first step in providing a sound management recommendation and can determine if control measures will be successful. If you have weeds you would like to have identified, the following procedure will allow for the greatest chance of accurate identification. The most reliable method to determine proper plant ID is to work with live specimens, but digital photos can work in many cases, if they are of good quality.

Below are the steps you should use when sending plant samples or pictures of plants to have them identified:

Fresh Samples:

1. Collect plants representative of the infestation. For seedling plants, collect the entire plant (tops and roots). For mature plants, collect entire plant with flowers and/or seed heads.
2. Place the sample in a sealed plastic bag with moist paper towels and keep cool.
3. Place the sample in an appropriate shipping container or large envelope and mail immediately.

Digital Pictures:

1. Take pictures of the entire plant in its natural environment (remove any other vegetation around it). Be sure to capture leaves, stems, roots, and flowers if possible. In many cases, you can remove the plant from the soil, brush or wash off the soil from the roots, and lay it on a white paper background.
2. Save the picture in a JPEG format with a clear resolution that allows the ability to see plant detail.

Bring fresh samples to your local county extension office with the following information or if sending photos, email them to your county extension agent and include the following information:

Your Name

Phone number

Email address

Date collected

County where collected

Location found (pasture, lawn, field crop, forest, etc.)

If found in a pasture, are livestock present?

Site characteristics if available (soil type, pH, soil compaction, etc.)