

2020 Citrus Greening Survey Guidelines and Sample Submission Instructions

Note: The guidelines below apply only for citrus greening samples from within Georgia. All samples **MUST** be submitted through UGA Cooperative Extension County Offices. For diagnosis of other citrus diseases in Georgia **besides** citrus greening, as always, UGA Cooperative Extension Offices should continue to send those citrus disease samples to the Plant Pathology Diagnostic Laboratory in Athens, GA. <https://plantpath.caes.uga.edu/extension/plant-disease-clinics.html>

Citrus Greening Sampling Guidelines and Instructions:

1. Per calendar year, a **maximum of 25 samples** (commercial+residential) will be accepted and tested free of charge from a single county.
2. Per calendar year, please submit **no more than 10 samples** from a **single** commercial site, and **no more than 5 samples** from a **single** residential site.
3. Per calendar year, please submit a **maximum of 1 sample per tree**, unless retesting is requested by the diagnostic laboratory.
4. Samples should be submitted during early spring (March 1st – April 15th) or late fall (October 1st – November 15th).
5. Mature, symptomatic citrus leaves should be collected for testing. Ideally, a shoot/branch terminal with 3-6 leaves on it is appropriate.
6. Collected samples should be sealed in a zip lock bag and shipped **overnight** so that they arrive at the Tifton Plant Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory the next day after taking the sample. Samples that get too hot or dry during shipping or are more than two days old may yield inaccurate results upon testing.
7. All samples shipped to the diagnostic lab must be promptly processed, so UGA Cooperative Extension Offices should contact Dr. Jonathan Oliver (jonathanoliver@uga.edu) or Dr. Emran Ali (emran.ali@uga.edu) **BEFORE** collecting a sample for submission, so that they can ensure that the lab can handle the numbers of samples expected each week.
8. All samples shipped to the diagnostic lab should be clearly labelled with **your name, the county of origin, and additional identifying information regarding the citrus species/cultivar and the location where the sample was collected**, so that a record can be kept of any greening-positive samples. If homeowners or commercial growers wish to submit a sample anonymously for testing, that is okay as long as the sample includes county of origin information and some kind of unique number on the sample so that county extension personnel can get back to that grower regarding the testing result. (This is especially important if multiple samples are submitted simultaneously from the same county/location).

Testing and confirmation may take 2-3 weeks to complete. Once testing is complete, UGA county extension personnel will be contacted with results. For confirmation, the diagnostic laboratory may request additional samples from any trees determined to be positive for citrus greening in initial testing.