

Dickeya Sampling Guide

- All samples require a Dickeya sample submission form- available at the lab and may be filled out during delivery of samples.
- Accepted samples are plant material (stems), water, and tubers. Other types of samples should be verified with the lab before submitting.
- Do not autoclave or sterilize water, plant material, soil, or tubers before submitting to the lab, as this may give an inaccurate result.
- Sample names must be written on the form exactly as they appear on the sample's container. Sample names may be certification numbers, the submittee's name and a number for each sample, or some other identifying name.
- If samples are sent by mail, please provide a business card or other list of contact information including email and mailing address, and sample names.
- **Leaking or saturated bags of samples should not be brought to the lab, as this can spread disease, and may be rejected.**

Types of Samples

- *Dormant tubers*: Tubers must be taken from a variety of locations in the field or in the potato house- do not grab all tubers from a single area, as this does not give an accurate representation of the whole lot and may provide you with an inaccurate representation of your crop. Up to 200 tubers can be tested as a single sample. Tubers don't need to be washed, but should be mostly free of mud and excessive dirt. **Burlap bags will be rejected.** Paper bags only. If bag is seeping or saturated, it may be rejected.
- *Symptomatic tubers*: The tuber displaying symptoms should be wrapped in paper (newspaper or a brown paper bag will suffice) to prevent liquefying, and completely sealed in a plastic bag or container with no holes or leaks. Any seeping bags or containers may be rejected. (Minitubers follow this same sampling protocol.)
- *Water test*: A sample of the water will be taken in a plastic, sterile, screw-top jar, which are available at the lab. The jar may have water poured in or may be dipped into a body of water- if jar is dipped, either sterilize the outside of the jar after sealing, or seal jar in a plastic bag. Water samples should be delivered to the lab no more than 24 hours after being taken.
- *Plant material*: An entire plant should not be brought into the lab and may be rejected. When a symptomatic or suspicious plant is found, the grower should cut the stem at the base, as close to the dirt as possible, and then remove leaves and offshoots, leaving just the stem. Testing requires a piece of stem at the border of health and infection, so try to include both healthy stem and rotted stem in the sample. The stem should be wrapped in paper (newspaper or a brown paper bag will suffice) to prevent liquefying, and completely sealed in a plastic bag with no holes or leaks. Any seeping bags or containers may be rejected.
- *Soil samples*: Soil samples should be taken in a sealed container with no leaks or holes. The outside of the container must be wiped of debris and may be carefully sterilized, without putting any sterilization chemicals inside the container and accidentally sterilizing the soil sample. Containers that are seeping or shedding soil may be rejected.