

PLANT PEST DIAGNOSTICS ADVISORY No. 01-2021

To: All County Agricultural Commissioners Date: September 7, 2021
Place: Sacramento
Phone: (916) 262-1100

From: Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services

Subject: Entomology Sample Submission Reminder

In response to an increase in incorrectly submitted PDR samples to the Entomology Laboratory of the Plant Pest Diagnostics Center, there is need to reiterate information from the Sample Preparation and Submission Guidelines and Plant Pest Diagnostics Advisory No. 01-2015 (see Web Resources below). This only applies to samples for submission to the Entomology Laboratory.

County staff preparing and submitting samples to the Entomology Lab should be completely familiar with the information in the Sample Preparation and Submission Guidelines document, specifically with regard to multiple different pest suspects submitted on a single PDR (see page 16 of the Submission Guidelines). Please communicate the following to the appropriate County staff responsible for preparing and submitting PDR samples to the Entomology Lab:

1) 1 PDR = 1 insect species (suspect pest) from a single host plant

There can be multiple individuals of the same suspect pest species from a single host plant on the same PDR and in the same vial.

2) Please do not put multiple different insect species on the same PDR.

This creates logistical problems in the laboratory, and we do not have the resources to make new PDRs. As such, these problematic PDRs will be turned back to the counties for creation of the new PDRs necessary before they will be processed. Multiple samples on a single PDR cause problems to the following processes:

- a. Upon arrival, PDR samples are triaged and distributed to scientists for identification, with different scientists responsible for different insect groups
- b. Samples often need to undergo different process for identification (e.g., DNA analysis, dissection, scanning electron microscopy, slide mounting)
- c. Specimens need to be fully trackable throughout the process

- d. Samples often are subject of internal CDFA communications (communication of an A or Q pest from a multi-sample PDR would be delayed until the entire PDR is complete)
- e. Data entry must be done in a timely manner (identifications are not entered until the PDR processing is complete)

3) Please do not put samples destined for more than one laboratory on the same PDR.

The problems above are compounded when more than one laboratory is involved.

If you have any questions regarding this advisory, please contact Steve Gaimari (Environmental Program Manager I) by email at stephen.gaimari@cdfa.ca.gov.

Web Resources:

Sample Preparation and Submission Guidelines:

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/ppd/PDF/Submission_guidelines_Entomology.pdf)

Plant Pest Diagnostics Advisory No. 01-2015:

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/ppd/PDF/PPDA_No_01-2015_Update_of_PDR_data_entry_system_to_allow_cloning_data.pdf)

PDR Cloning User Manual:

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/ppd/PDF/PDR_Cloning_User_Manual_2015.pdf)