

Instructions for the Submission of Dahlia Leaves for Virus Testing

Free Testing of Vendor Dahlia Stock

Please complete the sample submission form when you send your samples for analysis. Be sure to include the authorization number sent to you in July. All the information requested must be included to qualify for free testing. Please also sample and send your leaves within the time frame also provided in July. The “location in garden” column is to make certain that you can accurately associate the virus results with a specific plant. The reason for the last column is to allow us to separate expected results from unexpected results. You may want either to confirm that a plant has virus or to confirm that it is clean. Please feel comfortable sending leaves from both types of plants.

Samples from each plant should consist of about 15 sq. in. (think of a 3x5 card) of leaf material and should not include the oldest leaves at the bottom of the plant. Smaller leaves should be selected from each of the four quadrants around the plant. Pack the samples from each plant individually in an unsealed Zip-Loc® bag along with a dry piece of paper towel and a sample tag printed from the “tag” file available on the ADS Website (<https://dahlia.org/docsinfo/virus-testing/>). The package of samples must reach Dr. Pappu’s lab within 2 or 3 days of removal from your plants. Keep the samples in your refrigerator (not freezer) if you can’t send them on the day you cut them. Download and complete the Vendor Sample Submission Form on the ADS Website (<https://dahlia.org/docsinfo/virus-testing/>). Use multiple sheets as necessary and continue the sample numbering on subsequent sheets. All the fields in the table must be completed.

Ship the samples, overnight or priority as appropriate, to Dr. H.R. Pappu/Y. Zhai, Department of Plant Pathology, 345 Johnson Hall, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164. Include the form with the submission and send a copy of the form to the ADS at baronminer@aol.com to help us keep track of the project. Thrips can be an important contributor to the spread of some viruses. If you use a strategy to minimize thrips in your garden, please include a brief description of that strategy in your email.

All Other Tests

With the support of the Scheetz-Chuey Foundation and the cooperation of Professor Pappu, we can again provide the opportunity for all growers to send samples from their gardens to determine whether the plants have virus. The minimum sample size is again 30 and the subsidized cost for the testing is \$10 per sample (\$300 minimum order). Individuals with large gardens may want to submit the minimum sample order of 30 plants on their own. Clubs or groups of individuals also have the option to combine their orders to reach the minimum order of 30 plants. Samples from each plant should consist of about 15 sq. in. (think of a 3x5 card) of leaf material and should not include the oldest leaves at the bottom of the plant. Smaller leaves should be selected from each of the four quadrants around the plant. Pack the samples from each plant individually in an unsealed Zip-Loc® bag along with a dry piece of paper towel and a sample tag printed from the “tag” file available on the ADS Website (<https://dahlia.org/docsinfo/virus-testing/>).

The package of samples must reach Dr. Pappu's lab within 2 or 3 days of removal from your plants. Keep the samples in your refrigerator (not freezer) if you can't send them on the day you cut them. Download and complete the All Others Submission Form from the ADS Website (<https://dahlia.org/docsinfo/virus-testing/>). For submissions greater than 40 samples, continue the sample numbering on a second sheet. All the fields in the table must be completed to qualify for the subsidized testing rate of \$10 per sample. Make checks payable to WSU Clean Dahlia Center. Include the specific location of each plant in your garden so that you will be able to take appropriate action with that specific plant and its tubers after you get the test results.

Please help us as we try to improve our understanding of the relationships between viruses and the appearance of the foliage of our dahlias. Enter one of the following ratings for each of the samples you send for analysis: A for uniformly dark green foliage; B for subtle signs of yellowing along the veins in the leaves; C for some yellowing of the leaves away from the veins; D for yellow or brown spots or pattern on the leaves; or F for clear signs of virus like those in the brochure distributed with the 2015 June Bulletin and available here on the website. Ship the samples, overnight or priority as appropriate, to Dr. H.R. Pappu/Y. Zhai, Department of Plant Pathology, 345 Johnson Hall, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164. Include the submission form with the set of samples and send a copy to the ADS at baronminer@aol.com to help us keep track of the project. Thrips can be an important contributor to the spread of some viruses. If you use a strategy to minimize thrips in your garden, please include a brief description of that strategy in your email.