

Cropland disease. Summer updates on the Schutter Lab and social media. (7 April, 2017)

There are a few changes in the Schutter Diagnostic Lab in 2017, and of most concern to our clients are some new fees associated with specific tests. Sample submission is still **free**, but if you require specific tests such as ELISA or immunostrips, we need to start charging to cover the costs of the materials and staff time. The policy is on our website at <http://diagnostics.montana.edu/>. To be clear, if you want a standard diagnosis, it is still free. Sample forms and instructions for submission are also on our website.

We encourage everyone to submit samples through their local county extension office. County agents are trained to recognize common pests and you may not need to submit a sample to the lab at all. Gallatin county will have a plant clinic at their office a couple of days per week this year, and some other counties have a similar setup. Submitting samples through the county office assists in training of county agents and helps them to be aware of the plant pest issues in their community. We accept photos of samples by contacting the specialist directly. We ask that photos be in-focus and clear. This year we may be asking some of you to help us experiment with an app for photo submission, stay tuned.

The Schutter Diagnostic Laboratory and some brave specialists have taken on social media to communicate with our clientele! We started a Facebook page last year https://www.facebook.com/SchutterDiagnosticLab/?ref=br_rs and our plant pathologists, Jessica Rupp is @MTEExtPSPP and Mary Burrows @MontanaCropDoc are both on twitter, as is our plant id diagnostician, Noelle Orloff @MSUPlantID. Mary has been a bit reluctant and is the guinea pig for the diagnostics lab to see if she can keep up with it; but hopes to tweet a lot of what she sees in the clinic and the field as short heads-up type stuff and follow it up with AgAlerts as needed. So, if you're on twitter or facebook, come find us!

As always, any questions or concerns please contact us,

--Mary Burrows

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