

# HOME GROUNDS FACT SHEET



Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension  
Nassau County

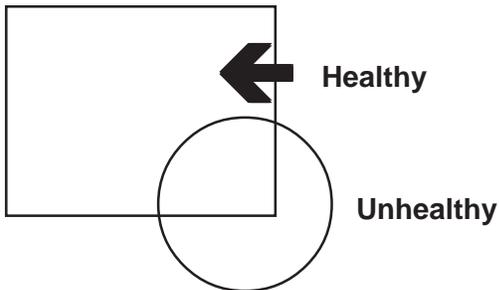


Horticulture Center  
Demonstration & Community Gardens  
at East Meadow Farm  
832 Merrick Avenue  
East Meadow, NY 11554  
Phone: 516-565-5265

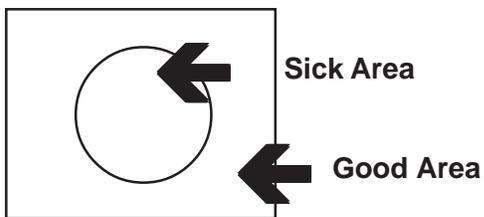
## How to Select a Sample for Lawn Trouble Diagnosis

Correct diagnosis of a lawn problem is possible only if a representative sample is selected from the edge of the problem area. It is best to take several samples rather than just one.

The sample should be no less than 6" wide by 6" long and 5" deep, including the thatch, some soil and roots. Select the sample from the problem area. Selecting only a dead area is not helpful because the disease or insect that caused the problem won't be there any more. Take the sample at the **margin** of the healthy and unhealthy area.



If the affected area is small, pinpoint the spot and include it in the sample.



Wrap sample in newspaper, place in a box and bring it to our office the same day. Do not soak the grass sample with water or let it dry out in the car.

Bring a list of any chemical treatments, watering practices, mowing, fertilizing and any other cultural or chemical practices, and the application dates, if possible. Tell us how the grass looked when the trouble was developing and when it started. This will aid us in making a correct diagnosis.

Since grass is a living organism, symptoms can change daily, thereby making diagnosis difficult. A good sample and knowledge of the treatment history are the best aids to proper diagnosis.

There is a \$5 fee for non-members.

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