

HOW TO SUBMIT SAMPLES FOR PLANT IDENTIFICATION

OPTION 1: Submit photo by email

- I am happy to attempt to identify a plant via electronic submission. Email clear photos with adequate resolution to noelleorloff@montana.edu. I often need to zoom in on important plant parts such as flowers or leaves, so make sure key features are in focus.
- Please include habitat information in the email, as well as anything else that seems pertinent to the specimen.
- If I cannot identify the plant from your photos, I will ask you to submit a physical sample by mail.

OPTION 2: Mail specimens as fresh samples

- Place specimen in a ziplock bag, seal it and place bag in a padded envelope or box.
- The ideal sample is a whole plant with flowers and roots intact. Please send in whole plants with roots whenever possible. To do this, keep some soil around the root ball; wrap this in plastic and secure with rubber band around the base of the plant. Loosely enclose the foliage in plastic such as a ziplock bag.
- Provide as much information on the Plant Identification Form as possible, especially regarding habitat. If roots are not included, indicate whether the plant is rhizomatous or not (does it spread by underground stems, meaning it grows in clumps, or not).
- Mail the package early in the week so it arrives by Friday. Do not mail fresh samples on a Thursday (unless overnighting it) or Friday. Store the package in the refrigerator over the weekend and mail on Monday. We want to avoid samples sitting at the post office over the weekend.
- **Please do not** send plants loose in a cardboard box. Without a plastic bag around them to keep them from drying out samples arrive dry, crinkled, and contorted, and are extremely difficult if not impossible to identify.

MAIL TO: Schutter Diagnostic Lab – Plant Identification
119 Plant BioScience Building
P.O. Box 173150
Montana State University Bozeman, MT 59717-3150

CONTACT: Noelle Orloff
Phone: 406-994-6297
Email: noelleorloff@montana.edu