



Forest Health Diagnostics Procedure

Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) provides statewide leadership to assure the state's trees, forests, and related natural resources are protected and sustained for the benefit of all. Through these efforts, TFS staff must evaluate and diagnose a variety of pests that impact trees and forests. In some cases, pests such as cogongrass, emerald ash borer, laurel wilt, oak wilt and others, may require advanced level diagnosis from a certified laboratory. This document outlines the TFS procedures for forest health diagnoses.

- 1) A forest or tree health request is made to a local TFS office by a landowner or homeowner
- 2) A local TFS representative receives pertinent information, and if needed, schedules a site visit to evaluate the forest or tree health concern and make a diagnosis
- 3) If the local TFS representative is unable to make a diagnosis, the TFS Regional Forest Health Coordinator will be contacted for assistance
- 4) If the TFS Regional Forest Health Coordinator is unable to make a reasonable diagnosis, after consulting with the TFS Forest Health Program Leader, a sample will be collected and submitted to the appropriate laboratory for diagnosis and confirmation
- 5) TFS will incur all expenses for securing, submitting, processing, and analyzing the sample for a diagnosis from the appropriate laboratory
- 6) If TFS staff are able to make a reasonable diagnosis without the aid of a laboratory, landowners or homeowners that still request a laboratory diagnosis will be responsible for all submission and laboratory diagnostic costs