

## TREE AND SHRUB DISEASE IDENTIFICATION FORM

### Information to Supplement the Plant Disease Identification Form

Each year we receive a number of twig and branch samples accompanied by the question "What's wrong with my tree?" or "What killed by shrub?" Many times the cause of the problem in not actually located on the specimen. Such problems are often best diagnosed only after careful inspection of the tree or shrub and its growing site. However, because we cannot visit the growing site, your observations and information can be of tremendous help to us. The more information you are able to supply, the better we are able to narrow down the cause of the problem with your plant.

**Please complete as much of the following as possible in addition to the Plant Disease Identification Form.**

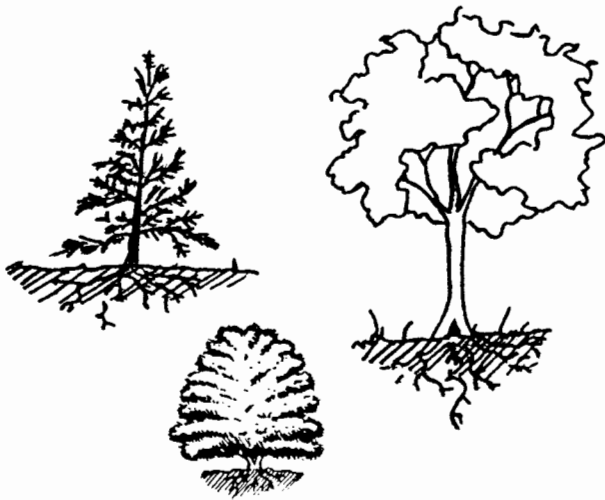
### General Information

Approximate height (feet) \_\_\_\_\_ Trunk diameter (inches) \_\_\_\_\_ Trunk diameter at planting \_\_\_\_\_

Time in present site \_\_\_\_\_

### Symptoms

1. What is the distribution of affected branches? (Indicate location of damage on the diagram below.)



- Scattered branches all over tree/shrub
- One portion of tree/shrub only
- Several portions of tree/shrub
- Entire plant

2. What is the progression of symptoms throughout the tree/shrub (e.g. from lower branches to top; from branch tips toward trunk, from one side to another, etc.)?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the order of symptom development on the leaves or needles? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Has the problem occurred: slowly \_\_\_\_\_ or rather suddenly \_\_\_\_\_ ? How rapidly? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Are there any cankers, sunken areas, or injuries on the main limbs or trunk? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe size and location. \_\_\_\_\_

How old are the cankers or injuries indicated above? \_\_\_\_\_ Is there any evidence of "healing" (callus)? \_\_\_\_\_

*(continued on reverse side)*

6. Does the tree (especially maples) have a girdling root up near the trunk, at soil level or below soil level? [Look for a large root forming a "noose" around the trunk within 12" of the soil surface. Mature trees (15 yrs or more) that are girdled lack a normal flare of the buttress roots and the trunk will appear to go straight into the ground, like a telephone pole.] \_\_\_\_\_
7. Are other plants of this type showing the same symptoms? \_\_\_\_\_ Are there healthy plants of the same type nearby? \_\_\_\_\_ Are there other plants not of this type showing the same symptoms? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Are mushrooms, bracket fungi or conks apparent on the trunk or at the base of the tree/shrub? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe \_\_\_\_\_

### Growing Site

1. Is the tree/shrub surrounded by pavement or buildings? \_\_\_\_\_ Is the soil around the tree/shrub compacted? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Is the tree/shrub in: full sun \_\_\_\_\_ partial shade \_\_\_\_\_ full shade \_\_\_\_\_?
3. Have the roots been disturbed in the past 5 years (e.g. by construction, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_ Has the grade around the tree/shrub been changed in the past 5 years (i.e. soil added or removed from root area)? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Is the tree/shrub located in a low, wet area or at the base of a downspout? \_\_\_\_\_ Does water stand on the soil after a heavy rain? \_\_\_\_\_ Is the tree/shrub in a site where the topsoil was removed (e.g. in a new home development)? \_\_\_\_\_

### Cultural Practices

1. Is there mulch around tree/shrub base? \_\_\_\_\_ Are there tree guards around the trunk? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Has the tree ever been topped? \_\_\_\_\_ When? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Has the tree/shrub been bumped by lawn mowers, string trimmers or other equipment? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Have herbicides been used to control weeds?  in lawn  around tree  other \_\_\_\_\_
5. Is the tree/shrub watered thoroughly during dry periods (i.e. the equivalent of 1 inch of rain per week)? \_\_\_\_\_
6. If plant was transplanted in the last 2 to 3 years, describe method \_\_\_\_\_

Was plant:  bare root  container grown  balled and burlaped.

Container diameter \_\_\_\_\_ or root ball size \_\_\_\_\_.

Type of root ball covering:  degradable burlap  plastic  other \_\_\_\_\_?

Was root ball covering removed \_\_\_\_\_ or loosened before planting \_\_\_\_\_?

7. What were the results of the last soil test taken for the site? pH \_\_\_\_\_ P \_\_\_\_\_ K \_\_\_\_\_  
Ca-Mg \_\_\_\_\_ When was the last time the tree/shrub or surrounding lawn was fertilized? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Be sure to indicate type of fertilizer and rates on the Plant Disease Identification Form.) How was the fertilizer applied?  cores dug  broadcast  injection  other \_\_\_\_\_  
 at the drip line  near trunk  other \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Information