

## **Handling Plant or Insect Samples in the Office**

There are occasions when it is difficult to identify a problem during a phone call. Then it may be necessary to see the problem in order to suggest a solution. The caller has several options to provide you with this information.

1. Bring in the insect or plant so you can look at the problem.
2. Bring in a photograph of the object.
3. Send a photo through email that you can see on the computer. The email address is: [wakullamg@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:wakullamg@ifas.ufl.edu) If the caller cannot send the photos immediately, note them on the Contact Form so the next MG will look for them.

If a sample will be brought to the office, inform the resident that we need to see both healthy and unhealthy/dead parts of the plant. It is difficult to diagnose a lawn problem from a sample of brown grass with no roots.

We also need as much of the structure of the plant as possible when doing a plant ID. One leaf may not give enough information, however knowing the leaf formations on the stem or the type of flowers/seeds it has may narrow it down so a clearer identification can be made.

Insects may be alive or dead, and should be contained in sealed clear plastic bags and labeled. It is easier to identify an insect that is not crushed.