



NEWS COLUMN

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Sick Plant? Bring It To Agronomy Day

URBANA – Is your plant lacking its typical luster? Bring it to the University of Illinois Plant Clinic booth for a speedy diagnosis during Agronomy Day on August 18. If you don't have a plant that needs a diagnosis on Agronomy Day, stop by the booth anyway to pick up a coupon for 10 percent off the next sample you send in to the clinic.

The U of I Plant Clinic offers the public unbiased diagnoses of plant problems and access to opinions of specialists in multiple disciplines.

Suzanne Bissonnette, director of the U of I Plant Clinic, said the clinic represents Illinois in the North Central region of the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN).

"NPDN's goal is to provide rapid, accurate diagnoses of exotic pests, select agents, and other introduced insects, pathogens, and weed threats," Bissonnette said.

A support fee is typically charged for all plant samples submitted for diagnosis, but the public is invited to bring one plant sample (no soil samples) to Agronomy Day for a free diagnosis.

"We will diagnose the plant sample while you wait," Bissonnette said. "Due to limited staff at the event, we will accommodate requests on a first-come, first-served basis."

The U of I Plant Clinic booth will be located in the large tent at the Crop Sciences Research and Education Center off St. Mary's Road on South Wright Street Extended in Urbana. Agronomy Day will begin at 7 a.m., with free one-hour tours departing every half-hour until noon.

Agronomy Day attracts more than 1,000 people each year to find out the latest information on technology and techniques to improve food and fuel production. For more information on speakers and displays, like University of Illinois Agronomy Day on Facebook or go to <http://agronomyday.cropsci.illinois.edu/>.