

## Master Gardener Diagnostic Checklist

### Affected Plants

- What types of plants (and cultivars/varieties) are affected?
- What does a healthy plant look like?
- What are the ages/sizes/physiological stage of the affected plants?
- Where/how were the plants grown, and where were they purchased?
- Are other plants affected?
  - Are they near each other?
- How closely related are the affected plants?
  - Same species or genera or family?
  - Same clade? (Monocot vs. Dicot vs. Gymnosperm?)

### Symptoms

- What plant part(s) is (are) affected?
- What are the symptoms?
  - Primary and secondary symptoms?
- Are any signs of a pathogen or pest present?
- What is the pattern of symptoms on individual plants?
- What is the pattern of disease in the field or area?
- When were symptoms first noticed?
- Are symptoms getting worse or staying the same as when they were first observed?
  - Are they getting better?
  - Has this been seen before (previous season problem/same or different crop)?
- Could this be a genetic or physiological issue?

### Environment

- Is the plant species suited to the location?
- Could the planting site be a factor?
  - Low or high spot?
- Could soil be a factor?
  - Low or high pH? Clay vs. sand content? pH?
- Weather patterns?
- Strange weather in previous years (drought, cold snaps, mild winter, ect.)?

### Cultural

- Could the planting method be a factor?
- Were any pesticides used in the area? Past few crops?
  - Are there conditions for carryover (low soil pH, heavy clay soil)?
  - Inversions? Weather conditions conducive to drift?
- Previously planted crops? Crop rotation?
- What watering and fertilization practices were used?
- Did the grower apply any treatment for the problem?
  - Did the treatment have any affect?

### Other

- Has the client had previous problems of any kind with this type of plant?
- Has the client had this problem on another plant?
- **What does the client think might have caused the problem?**
  - The client has an intimate knowledge of the crop, its history, and their own set of 'evidence' for a cause.