Plant Problem Diagnosis- A Systematic Approach

Step 1. Evaluation
Plant = ___________________ Cultural Requirements = ____________________

Does a problem exist?: Yes  No  If yes, proceed to Step 2

Step 2. Problem Hypothesis:
What plant tissues appear to be affected: ________________________________

Describe the Symptoms (abnormal plant appearance):

Circle Symptom Characteristics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distribution</th>
<th>random</th>
<th>regular</th>
<th>unknown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rate of Appearance</td>
<td>gradual</td>
<td>quick</td>
<td>unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Species Affected</td>
<td>one-few (related)</td>
<td>one-many (unrelated)</td>
<td>unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spreading/Infectious</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any Signs (physical presence of problem entity) Present? Describe:

Does the Cause of the Problem appear to be: living (biotic) or nonliving (abiotic)

What Category (e.g. mechanical, insect) of Damage: __________________________

What Specific Factor/Organism (e.g. bacteria, mite): __________________________

Hypothesis of Problem Origin: __________________________________________

Step 3. Evidence & Verification:
Evidence observed/found:

References consulted:

Step 4. Hypothesis Evaluation:
Does the Evidence Fit the Hypothesis:    yes  no

Diagnosis/Recommendations or Further Action Suggested: