



## Cotton Disease Diagnostics “Monitor to manage”

A plant disease occurs when there is an interaction between a plant host, a pathogen and the environment. Be aware of the symptoms of endemic and exotic cotton diseases. The early detection of disease outbreaks allows growers and consultants to implement management strategies which can assist with minimising the severity and spread of diseases.

### Endemic diseases

- Seedling diseases (Pythium, Rhizoctonia, Black root rot)
- Fusarium wilt
- Verticillium wilt
- Boll rots (Boll rot, seed rot, tight lock)
- Alternaria leaf spot
- Sclerotinia
- Cotton bunchy top
- Tobacco streak virus

### Exotic diseases

- Cotton leaf curl disease
- Fusarium wilt (exotic strains)
- Texas root rot
- Blue disease
- Bacterial blight (exotic strains)
- Verticillium wilt (exotic strains)

**If you see symptoms of exotic diseases, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881**

More information about cotton diseases can be found in the *Cotton Pest Management Guide*.

### Collection and Storage Methods

When sending samples of suspected diseased plants to industry pathologists:

- Send multiple samples (e.g. more than 1 leaf, stem or plant).
- If possible include a sample from a healthy plant as well as the diseased plant material.
- When collecting seedlings – dig them up rather than pull them out, including some soil.
- Several sections of stem (10 – 15 cm long) are usually adequate for wilt diseases.
- Wrap samples in a paper bag, envelope, or dry newspaper – never use plastic. Write your name, farm name, field name/number and date on the outside of this bag.
- Each bag should contain samples from one field only.
- Keep the samples cool (placed in the fridge) and send as soon as possible after collecting.
- It is better to despatch samples early in the week rather than just before the weekend.  
**Tip: take your samples on the weekend and post them on Monday while they are still fresh, this will help ensure the samples are not subjected to unnecessary delivery time.**
- Please complete the diagnostic form when sending samples including information such as symptoms, field history and variety.

### Where do I send samples?

Send one plant disease diagnostic form with your sample(s):

#### New South Wales

Dr Duy Le

P: 0439 941 542

**Note: Suspected Fusarium samples are to be sent to Queensland.**

#### Queensland

Dr Linda Smith

M: 0457 547 617

Attn: Duy Le/Aphrika Gregson

NSW DPI

Australia Cotton Research Institute

21888 Kamilaroi Highway

Narrabri NSW 2390

*Post/small parcels*

Att: Linda Smith

Ecosciences Precinct

QLD DAF

GPO Box 267

Brisbane QLD 4001

*Large parcel via courier (e.g. Toll)*

Att: Linda Smith

QLD DAF

Basement 3 Loading Dock

Joe Baker Street (Off Boggo Road)

Dutton Park QLD 4102