

PLANT PROBLEM DIAGNOSIS

QUESTIONS TO ASK

I. THE PLANT

- a. What is the plant?
- b. What is normal for the plant?
- c. What are the common problems with the plant?
- d. What do you see that looks abnormal?
- e. What is the overall health of the plant?
- f. What do you see on other plants?
- g. When did the symptoms first appear?
- h. Patterns of injury?

II. HORTICULTURAL HISTORY

- a. What is the transplant history?
- b. Use of girdling wires, twine or straps?
- c. Fertilization rate? When and how applied?
- d. Mulching depth and placement of mulch?
- e. Pesticide sprays?
- f. Irrigation?
- g. Plant hardiness? Source of plant material?

III. ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

- a. How harsh have recent winters been?
- b. Fluctuating temperatures during winter months?
- c. Late freeze? Hail?
- d. Severe droughts in past years?
- e. Present temperature and moisture levels?

IV. SITE HISTORY

- a. Drainage?
- b. Topography?
- c. Soil type?
- d. pH/salts?
- e. Exposure (sun/shade/wind)?
- f. Construction (change in soil grade, root damage)?
- g. Previous plantings?