

Diagnostic Tools of the Trade

When attempting to diagnose a tree disorder or when identifying specific insects or diseases, it is useful or necessary to have certain tools and equipment available on-site. When conducting a tree inspection or diagnosis, many foresters come prepared by carrying a bag of commonly used tools and sample collection equipment. The following is a list of tools and equipment that you can include in your own diagnostic bag. The time and effort it takes to gather and organize this equipment will be rewarded when you show up at a site prepared and professional.

You may find it useful to store this equipment in a crate, backpack, shoulder bag, or even a tackle box. Smaller items can be carried with you in a bag or small tool tray; larger items can be stored in a designated container in your vehicle and removed when necessary.

Tools

Duck-billed Spade (Drain Spade)
Garden Spade
Hand Trowel
Hatchet
Machete
Draw Knife (Bark Knife)
Handsaw
Pruning Shears
Loppers
Pole Saw / Pruner
Pocket Knife
Tool Disinfectant
Rope
Binoculars

Dissecting Kit

Forceps (Various sizes)
Small Scissors
Pointed Probes
Razor Blades / Scalpels
Hand Lens / Magnifying Glass
Small Brush

Measurement Tools

D-Tape
Ruler
Clinometer
Increment Borer
Increment Core Case
Compass

Reference Material

Pest Control Manual
Insect Identification Guide
Disease Identification Guide
Weed Identification Guide
Tree Identification Guide
NC Agricultural Chemicals Manual
Pamphlets/Brochures
Business Cards

Sample Collection

Glass Vials (Various sizes)
Plastic Vials (Various sizes)
Kill Jars
Plastic Sealable Bags
Paper Bags
Paper Envelopes
Small Plastic Containers
Bottle of 70 percent Alcohol
Small Cooler
Ice Packs
Soil Sample Boxes
Butterfly / Insect Net
Duct Tape
Clear Tape

Data Collection

Notepad
Sticky Labels
NCDA Soil Sample Forms
NCSU Insect and Disease Clinic Forms
NCDA Plant Tissue Analysis Forms
NCDFR Pest Control Worksheets
Permanent Markers
Pencils
Flagging Tape
Colored Marker Flags
GPS Unit
Digital Camera

Personal Protection Equipment

First Aid Kit
Leather Gloves
Protective Eyewear
Hard Hat
Latex Gloves
Hand Sanitizer
Poison Ivy Soap & Treatment
Sting Relief Pads
Rubber Boots
Bottled Water

