



**Lagan Valley
Scientific**

LVS_DOC36: Checklist for Routine Turf Testing

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| Changes since last version | Simplified the text |

PREPARE IT > PACK IT > POST IT

PROCESS CHECKLIST AT A GLANCE (FOR ALL CLIENTS OUTSIDE NORTHERN IRELAND):

- ✓ Contact LVS to obtain our 'Letter of Authority' (LOA) & answer any queries.
- ✓ Prepare a Sample Submission Form (OPTIONAL but recommended)
- ✓ Prepare a Commercial Sample Invoice (OPTIONAL but recommended)
- ✓ Pack the sample(s) & 3 forms:
 - Sample Submission Form (goes inside the package)
 - Commercial Sample Invoice (goes inside the package)
 - **Essential:** Letter of Authority (LOA) (2 copies – one copy goes inside the package and the other goes on the outside)
- ✓ Post samples to us: We recommend using our shipping label.
- ✓ Notify us to expect a sample (phone, email, text, Whatsapp etc)
- ✓ We analyse the material & send you an invoice
- ✓ Pay for your services & get your results

PROCESS CHECKLIST AT A GLANCE (NORTHERN IRELAND ONLY):

- ✓ Prepare a Sample Submission Form (OPTIONAL but recommended)
- ✓ Pack the samples & Sample Submission form
- ✓ Post samples to us & notify us (phone, email, text, Whatsapp etc) to expect a sample
- ✓ We analyse the material & send you an invoice
- ✓ Pay for your services & get your results

Special notes:

1. Describe the problem in the submission form or contact the lab to discuss the problem
 - is the area typically prone to disease or have a specific historical issue?
 - has the weather abruptly changed? If you monitor temperature, moisture, or humidity, has there been a change or trend?
 - has there been a change to your nutrition programme?
 2. Take photos
 - One of the general area, and one close-up are helpful.
 3. Use appropriate packaging & labelling for your sample
 - ~20cm x 20cm grip seal bags (for composite small core samples),
 - tin foil (to wrap large cup-cutter cores so the profile stays in-tact during transit).
 - Use permanent marker, or securely tape a label onto to the sample to identify it.
 - We do not recommend shipping samples open or loose (for example wrapped only in newspaper inside a box). Packaging which has gaps can cause samples to dry out, & risk destruction at checkpoints due to biosecurity/containment issues.
- **Compulsory (if shipping from outside Northern Ireland): A Letter of Authority (LOA) is a document that is specific to you & LVS which permits the entry of restricted plant & soil material to Northern Ireland for testing. Endorsing the LOA is straightforward:**

Sections 1, 14 & 12 need completed.

- **Section 1 is for the senders' details.**
- **Section 14 is for the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) in the sender's country to endorse. Send to the relevant competent authority to endorse (LVS will help you to do this). Once the document is endorsed you can re-use it while valid.**
- **Section 12 is for a unique reference number for each consignment. LVS will complete this section.**

We recommend placing a copy of the completed LOA INSIDE the consignment just in case the one taped on the outside of a package comes off during transit.

- **Optional:** Complete a sample submission form.
 - It is optional, but recommended, to use the one provided by LVS.
 - Not including a description of the samples or test(s) you require may cause delays.
- **Optional:** Complete a commercial invoice for the samples.
 - It is optional to use the one provided by LVS if you do not have your own. The value of the samples is usually negligible & equal, maximally, to the value of the shipping costs (usually £1 is declared as the sample value).
 - Not specifying a value may cause fees to be applied &/or delays.
- **Optional:** Use our shipping label. It has the correct phrases/CPC code for customs.

Asymptomatic Nematode Damage Index Assessment:



Above: Examples of sampling strategies when there are no obvious symptoms

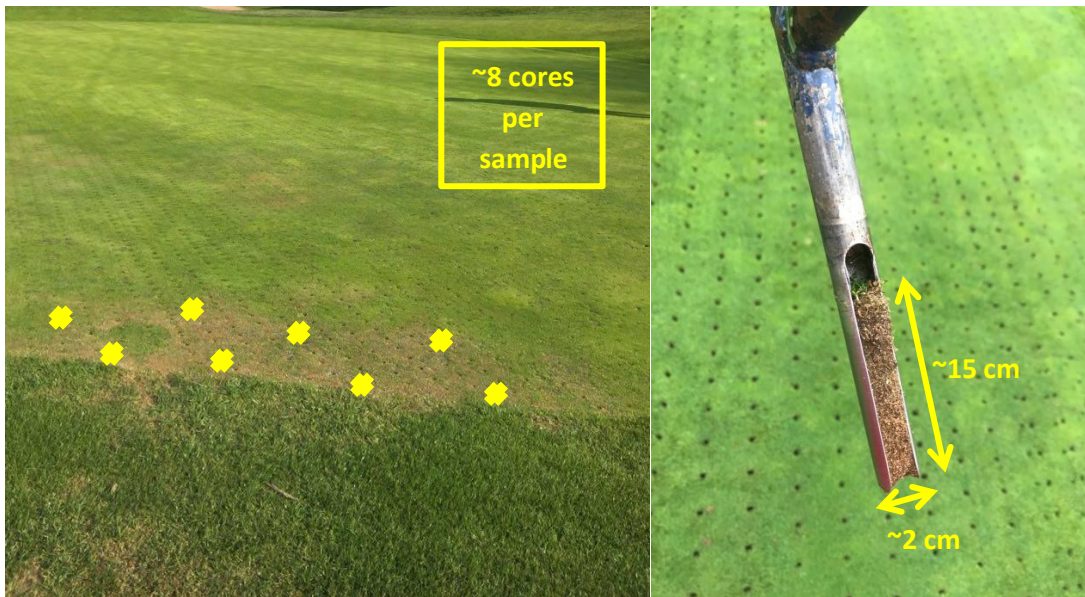
Aim to take 1 core per ~50m² (golf greens/tees).

It is useful to divide larger areas (fairways, most stadiums & pitches) into discrete zones especially where a problem is historically known to be more localised. 10-15 small cores per sample is recommended from an area showing no symptoms.

A standard core size is ~2cm diameter & ~15cm deep but another size is OK; simply adjust the number of cores taken as necessary so that one sample weighs no more than ~500g.



Symptomatic Nematode Damage Index Assessment:



Symptoms may vary. Use this strategy when there are obvious localised symptoms & the objective is to track populations therein or confirm a nematode pest.

Aim to take ~8 cores from a small area (~10m² or less) that represent the symptoms observed.

If possible, where GPS is unavailable, use a permanent feature like a drain or yard line to pinpoint the sampling location so that it is possible to return to the same spot. A rough sketch is useful.

If the area is very small or it is not possible to take 8 cores, take what you can.

A standard core size is ~2cm diameter & ~15cm deep but another size is OK; simply adjust the number of cores taken as necessary so that one sample weighs no more than 500g (approx. half a bag of sugar).

Investigate Plant Health Decline:



Symptoms may vary. Use this strategy for targeting a small, localised area. The purpose of this is to investigate any *biological* activity causing the decline. As well as fungal, oomycete, & bacterial issues, standard nematode assessments are performed on this type of sample too.

For suspect fungal problems a larger core is recommended where possible.

A device such as a hole changer is ideal for this type of sample (an ideal sample is a single piece of turf approx. 10 - 15cm diameter & 10 – 15 cm depth).

Wrap the turf core in tin foil like a burrito. If tin foil isn't available, newspaper will suffice.

Where it is not possible to take a single larger piece of turf, take a few smaller cores (the larger the better) at the leading edge of the problem area instead including some healthy material. Lay smaller cores in a line and carefully wrap with foil or newspaper so the leaves and soil do not mix during transit.

If the symptomatic area is smaller than a hole changer, take the whole symptomatic area if that option is available to you.

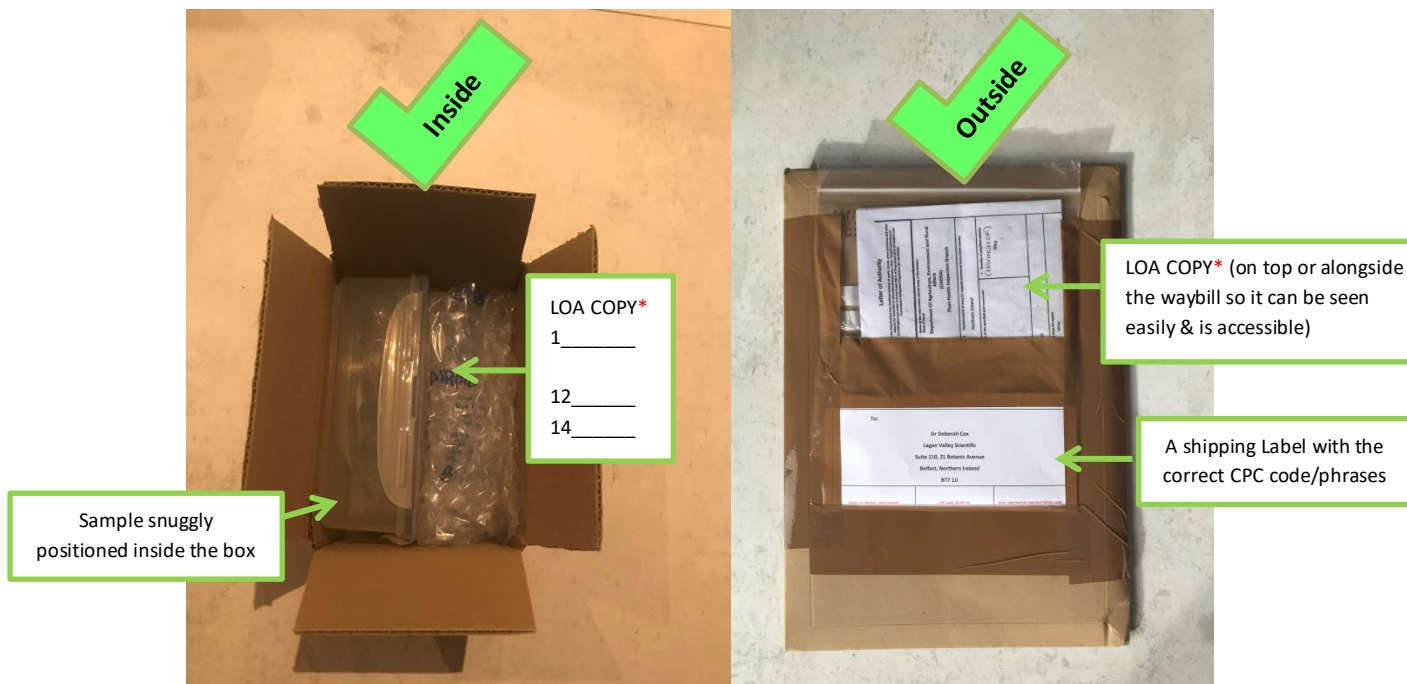
Ensure that the leading edge of the problem area is submitted & material isn't totally dead.

Ideally large cores should be between 500g & 1kg as a rough guide & include the entire root length if possible (even if clay layers are beneath the turf, aim to sample to at least 10cm and include the clay).

A matched sample from an area showing no symptoms may be submitted for comparison for this service.

We can also accept construction materials and ornamental plant materials showing symptoms of decline or for research. Instructions for sampling may vary depending on the nature of the work, so please contact LVS in the first instance for sampling guidance. In almost all cases samples will be relatively small (<500g) and weigh no more than 1kg each. The total maximum weight of a consignment we can accept is 30kg.

Post:



For clients based outside Northern Ireland an endorsed LOA is essential. We recommend including a sample submission form & a sample invoice. We recommend for customs using our shipping label which has the following phrases: "**GOODS FOR TEST - RELIEF CLAIMED - NEGLIGABLE VALUE**", **CPC code 40 00 C33**. LVS's EORI number is **GB075075311000/XI075075311000**.

We always recommend snug fitting **triple layer protection** so samples don't bash around during transport (**i.e. a sample of soil inside a grip-seal bag, which goes snugly inside a container, which goes inside an outer shipping case or envelope**). Simply ensure nothing can escape.

It is best practice to have one layer 'unbreakable' like the lunchbox example on the top left. The samples fit snugly inside the lunchbox using tissue/bubble wrap and the rest of the space in the shipping container is filled too. Failure to secure samples during shipment may result in rejection at checkpoints or at the lab like the example below.

For smaller consignments, a simple triple layered envelope approach can work well. Simply make sure nothing can escape.

Do not leave samples in direct sunlight where they could dry out. Do not freeze samples.

Label the consignments as recommended by your preferred courier (e.g. "FRAGILE").



Getting Results & Paying for Scientific Services:

When we receive samples, we will notify you on the day they arrive & advise when you might expect results.

Services are payable via an invoice which will be issued to the client who requested the testing. Unless pre-arranged with LVS, for example by providing a PO, results are released upon payment of the services.

Results will be sent electronically only to the requesting client based on the sample submission details unless otherwise pre-arranged with LVS.

Our Privacy Policy, Quality Policy, & Provision of Scientific Services documents are available via our website at www.laganvalleyscientific.com which fully details T&Cs.

We always welcome feedback on our services & your experience. Feel free to leave us a review or make a suggestion via our website using the 'contact us' section.

END OF DOCUMENT
