

NSW DPI Plant Health Diagnostic Service (PHDS)– Price List 2024

Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) operates a network of laboratories across NSW with the largest dedicated primary industries laboratory located at the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute (EMAI) at Menangle in South-West Sydney. EMAI is NSW DPI's Centre of Excellence for Animal and Plant Health.

NSW DPI undertakes laboratory testing to support surveillance, accreditation, export, diagnostic and emergency response activities for animal and plant diseases in NSW and interstate.

Hours of operation

Monday to Friday: 8:30am – 4:30pm

Saturday: 8:30am – 12:00pm (for receipt of samples only)

If testing is undertaken out of hours, this may be charged at an increased price to cover the costs associated with this service. Customers are encouraged to contact the laboratory to discuss the delivery and testing of samples that are urgent to ensure they are aware of the full cost of these services, and to ensure that samples arrive safely. Special arrangements apply to testing for emergency and exotic diseases.

Contact us

Please contact Customer Services on:

Phone: 1800 675 623

Email: laboratory.services@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Mail: Woodbridge Road, Menangle, NSW 2568; or
Private Bag 4008, Narellan, NSW 2567

Website: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/services/laboratory-services

Test pricing

This price list provides customers with a list of the most requested tests and their base prices (**ex GST**). Prices are valid for samples submitted on and after **1 February 2024**. Advice on other tests, services, test subsidies or volume discounts can be obtained by contacting Customer Services.

Quotations or contracts can be negotiated with us for volume discounts or specific testing requirements.

Prices are reviewed annually based on cost changes; however, NSW DPI reserves the right to modify prices at any time.

Testing may be outsourced to other laboratories. Outsourced work will be placed with a competent laboratory and wherever possible, is NATA accredited. All samples referred to external laboratories will incur an additional laboratory handling/courier fee (see Service Fees)

Testing for Exotic Plant Pests

NSW DPI offers service fee exemptions for the cost of exclusion testing for Emergency plant pests. Testing for Emergency Plant Pests (EPP) must be approved by the Chief Plant Protection Officer (CPPO). For approval please contact:

- **Exotic Plant Pest Hotline: 1800 084 881**

Sample submission, testing and reporting

A laboratory submission form **must** accompany all specimens submitted to the laboratories. These forms are available by contacting Customer Services or on our [website](#). On receipt of samples, you will be notified via email. Please ensure you supply a "Submitter reference" as this is included in the subject of your receipt email and makes tracking easier.

Preparing Plant Samples – Sample Types and Packaging

Our ability to accurately diagnose plant health problems depends on receiving fresh, properly prepared specimens and a complete and accurate case history. All specimens should be packed to ensure the plant remains intact. The package must contain the sample submission form ('[Plant disease diagnosis request form](#)') and be fully enclosed (where possible).

Please submit whole plants with roots and soil, where practical. Importantly, include samples that have a range of symptoms, from light to severe, representative of the field symptoms. Do not send dead plants. Where it is not practical to submit the entire plant, send parts of the plants that have the range of symptoms, i.e., light to severe damaged/infected.

More details on sample preparation can be found [here](#) or in this [video](#)

Turn-around times (TATs)

TATs are provided as a guide only and may vary as they are dependent on current laboratory workload and EPP testing.

Test cancellation

NSW DPI reserves the right to charge service and handling fees to customers who request a test cancellation once processing of the sample has begun.

Reporting

Once authorised, test reports are sent to customers via their nominated email address. A separate invoice will follow via email. Please supply additional emails if invoices are to be sent to a separate email address.

Invoices

Invoices are issued to your nominated email address. If this is different to the reporting email, please advise Customer Services.

Courier services and specimen delivery

Couriers can be contacted directly to make bookings and arrange collection of packages. NSW DPI utilises the services of the following nominated couriers:

- Metrostate (02 9645 9700)
- TNT (13 11 50)
- Toll Priority (13 15 31)

Please contact Customer Services on 1800 675 623 for courier account details and to arrange pre-printed consignment notes. After-hours and same day deliveries must be pre-approved via Customer Services, or all associated fees will be charged back to the customer.

Commercial couriers may use either road or air transport, and therefore, specimens should be packed in accordance with [the International Air Transport Association \(IATA\)](#) requirements. As requirements for transport can change, customers should consult with their transport agent to obtain current requirements.

LABORATORY SERVICE FEES

Laboratory handling fee	\$33.00
Courier – Standard esky return	\$27.50
Courier – Interstate on-freight fee	\$47.50
Courier – NSW on-freight fee	\$27.50
Courier – Interstate on-freight fee (RLS)	\$37.50
Courier – International on-freight fee	\$125.00
Waste disposal (per kg)	\$5.30
Expert witness Certificate – standard	\$110.00
Expert witness Certificate – complex	\$316.80

PLANT HEALTH DIAGNOSTIC SERVICE (PHDS)

TESTING NOT CONDUCTED BY PHDS

- Plant species, variety, or cultivar identification
- Pesticide, herbicide, antibiotic, heavy metal, or other residue analysis in plants, growing media, or water
- Nutritional analysis in plants, growing media, or water
- Fungal contamination or mycotoxins in stock feed
- Seed viability or purity

TEST NAME	PRICE (ex GST)
BASIC EXAMINATION	
Basic examination - Includes clinical examination and low-powered light microscopy	\$80.25
STANDARD EXAMINATION	
Standard examination (including basic examination) - Includes high-powered light microscopy and sample humidification	\$113.75
COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION	
Comprehensive examination (including basic & standard examination) - Includes pathogen culturing	\$207.25
ELISA	
ELISA Potato Virus screening	Contact Customer Service
ELISA Virus Set-up ¹	\$91.30
ELISA Virus Identification: Price tiers = 1, 2-21, 22-45 samples	
- 1 Virus ELISA	\$26.15- \$32.70
- 2 Virus ELISA	\$44.95- \$56.20
- 3 Virus ELISA	\$56.45- \$70.55
- 4 Virus ELISA	\$70.00- \$87.55
- 5 Virus ELISA	\$84.95- \$106.20
OTHER TESTING	
Crop inspection/Prepare Disease Management Plan	\$58.90
Electron Microscopy (EM) Negative stain	\$156.30
Electron Microscopy (EM) Section and Identification*	\$302.10
Fungal spore extraction (from seeds)	\$127.85

Imported Seed Pathogen Screening	Contact Customer Service
Nematode extraction (from soil/potting media, mulch, plants and seeds) *	\$65.85
PCR (for 1 organism/gene region) Price tiers = 1-6 and 7-50 samples*	\$74.80- \$91.30
PCR (for 2 organisms/gene regions) Price tiers = 1-6 and 7-50 samples*	\$86.45- \$102.90
PCR (for 3 organisms/gene regions) Price tiers = 1-6 and 7-50 samples*	\$102.40- \$117.65
PCR (for 4 organisms/gene regions) Price tiers = 1-6 and 7-50 samples*	\$122.60- \$136.20
Seed Fungi Identification (humidification/germination and microscopy)	\$400.95
Seed bacteria identification. Price tiers = 1 and ≥2 samples	\$243.05- \$279.50
Sequencing (per organism/gene region) *	\$26.10

Note:

- ¹ This fee may apply to non-standard submissions, one off tests, samples requiring extra preparation or special project testing.
- Examination prices are per sample (or per number of samples representing one disease or pathogen).
- Test listed are those commonly requested. Please contact the laboratory for details of other tests that are available.
- (*) These tests are not NATA accredited, however, conducted in a NATA accredited laboratory.

ENTOMOLOGY DIAGNOSTIC SERVICE

TEST NAME	PRICE (ex GST)
- Insect/mite identification general, per sample*	\$48.67
- Insect/mite Identification, specialist (includes slide mounting) per sample*	\$117.27
- DNA barcode identification, per sample* 1 to 6 Samples	\$117.37
- DNA barcode identification, per sample* 7 to 50 Samples	\$100.88
- DNA barcode identification, per sample* >50 Samples – Enquire for project pricing	Contact Customer Service

Note:

- Samples with more than one species present will be charged per species identification. Specific test costs are available for some sample types, please enquire with Customer Services 1800 675 623 or complete the online [quotation request form](#) for further information.
- For larger volumes of samples, special project pricing may be possible, please call customer service or use the quotation request form to enquire.
- (*) This test is not NATA accredited, however, performed in a NATA accredited laboratory.