

# GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING PLANT PHOTOS FOR IDENTIFICATION

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# DDIS is better (and more secure) than email!

- The DDIS system is designed for registered users in Florida to quickly submit digital photos and relevant sample information in a secure format that is easy to use, and allows us to respond rapidly with a plant identification and links to websites with more information about the plant
- You can access DDIS at <http://ddis.ifas.ufl.edu/>
  - For a tutorial on how to submit samples using DDIS, log in and click the “quick start” tab on the DDIS homepage

# Submitting photos for identification

- Identifying plants from photos is challenging, so it is helpful if you include the same detailed **location, context, and plant description** information that you would provide on the form you'd send with a physical sample
- Always indicate **what Florida county** the plant is growing in. If the plant was photographed out of state or out of country, be sure to tell us where!



# Submitting photos for identification

- Generally a single photo is not sufficient for confident identification. Try to take:
  - a photo of the **entire plant**
  - a close-up of the **stem with leaves** (so we can see leaf arrangement)
  - a close-up of **flowers or fruit**
- Include a ruler, coin, or person in the photo for scale if possible



# Examples of photos showing diagnostic characteristics:





# Examples of photos of limited diagnostic value:








# Submitting photos for identification: photo quality is very important!

- Make sure your photos are in focus and the plant you want identified is clear and obvious, not obscured by glaring sunlight or shade
- Photos need to be high enough resolution that we can zoom in and see plant details without the image become pixilated



# Submitting photos for identification— just doesn't work for certain types of plants

- Generally, we are not able to provide genus- or species-level IDs on grasses or sedges based on photos. For grasses and sedges, we need to examine a flowering/fruitlet physical sample under a microscope
- Photos of sterile samples (those lacking flowers or fruits) are also very hard to ID to the species level, so you may want to send a physical sample instead



**Do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions about submitting a sample or have not received a diagnosis on a sample you submitted**

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