

Tips for Taking Close-Up Photos with Your Smartphone

Here's a set of **practical tips for taking close-up photos with a smartphone** to help specialists identify plants and insects.

1. Know Your Camera Setting for Close-Up Photos

- Smartphone cameras differ by manufacturer in their close-up settings. Review the user guide for your device to ensure proper use. Read user guide of [iPhone](#), [Samsung Galaxy](#), or [Google Pixel](#).

2. Ensure Good Lighting

- Take photos in **natural light**, preferably outdoors or near a window.
- Avoid harsh shadows; cloudy days are ideal.
- If indoors, use indirect light or a ring light.

3. Focus Properly

- Tap the screen on the **subject** (leaf, stem, or insect) to ensure it's sharp.
- Hold steady, or use a tripod/phone stand if available.
- For small insects, move closer gradually and let the camera refocus.

4. Capture Different Angles

- For **plants**: include close-ups of leaves (top & underside), stems, flowers, and any damage.
- For **insects**: capture dorsal (top), side, and close-up of wings/legs if possible.

5. Use Background Contrast

- Place a **plain background** (white paper, hand, or board) behind the subject to avoid distractions.
- This helps specialists see the subject clearly.

6. Show Scale

- Place a **coin, ruler, or fingertip** next to the plant or insect to indicate size.

7. Clean the Lens

- Wipe your phone lens with a clean cloth before shooting to avoid haze or blur.

8. Take Multiple Shots

- Capture **several photos** of the same subject at slightly different distances and angles.
- Choose the clearest ones to submit.