

FBMG Help Desk
Question of the Week

Help us help you!

More information is better!



As the Saying Goes!

A picture is worth a thousand words!

Photos in context are helpful!

The photo provides additional information.

- *Take photos from different angles*
 - *right, left, looking down, looking up*
- *Include the whole plant*
- *Photograph the insect while it is alive*
- *Take photos up close and from far away*
 - *a close up of the subject*
 - *a photo of the whole subject*
- *Include something for reference/scale such as a measuring tape, pack of gum, a coin, golf ball, finger/hand etc*
- *A photo of the adjacent area such as*
 - *the plant next to it*
 - *the mulch*
 - *any other insects in the area*



Tell the Story!

Helpful information to include.

Help us help you with your gardening questions and concerns!

For questions about tree, shrub, lawn, insect, vegetable garden, containers, raised bed, flowers etc include the details.

Ideas of what to include, but not limited to.

When did it start?

What does it look like?

How much of the plant/lawn is affected?

What kind of mulch is there?

How often and how long is the area watered?

Is there an irrigation system, a hose with s sprinkler?

What is the sun exposure?



I Found this in my Garden!

What is it?

If possible get a few more photos from different angles,
as well as something for scale.

Information to Include

- *Where was it found?*
 - *On a plant*
 - *What kind of plant? include it in the photo,*
 - *On a flower pot, patio, in the grass etc*
- *Was it by itself or were there others?*
 - *If there were others how many?*
- *What time of day did you find it?*
- *What was near by?*
- *How big was it?*
- *Do you still have it?*

Any other pertinent information.



What is this weed?

A few items of information to include.



- Where was it found?
- What is around it?
- Is it a sunny or shady spot?
- When was it found?
- How many of them are there?
- Is it a dry or damp area of the yard?

Has this area recently been treated with anything?

If so what was it?

Weed, Feed, Herbicide - which one?

How frequently?

When was it used?

In the photo

Make sure to include the whole plant as well as a close up of the leaves.

Make sure to include the immediate surrounding area.



The Whole Picture



Helps provide the whole answer!

Sample question;

My tree leaves and some branches are turning black almost like mold should I cut it down?

Well lets take a close look! What do the pictures show?



- The first photo shows the described leaves
- A closer photo shows a lady beetle larva
 - known to eat aphids, mealy bugs and other leaf piercing insects
- Another photo shows aphids with lady beetle larva

Aphids produce a substance called honeydew which will turn into a sooty mold. The lady beetle larva are eating the aphids, that indicates lady beetle presence for awhile.

Mother Nature at Work!

*Do you have questions
about your home
landscape and plants?*

*Contact the Fort Bend
Master Gardener Help Desk*

*Email:
FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu*

*Phone:
281-341-7068*

*The Help Desk is manned
Monday thru Friday,
9am-Noon*

Call or mail for assistance.

