

# Meet Our Experts



**Chad Bullock**, our Lawn and Weed Expert for Sick Plant Clinic, has a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture with an emphasis in turf management from Kansas State University. He also owns and **operates** [Premiere Farm and Home Supply](#).



**R. O. "Brownie" Brown**, is an arborist and former owner of [Brown's Tree Service](#), selling the business to his son, Troy, in 2000. He is still involved in the business and has been a long-time member of Shawnee County Extension Master Gardeners.



**Dr. Raymond Cloyd**, Entomology Professor at Kansas State University, has a Ph.D. in entomology from Purdue University and is the extension specialist in horticultural entomology for the state of Kansas with a major clientele that includes homeowners, master gardeners, and professional and commercial operators.



**Jamie (Hancock) Kidd**, Shawnee County Research and Extension Horticulture Agent, has a masters degree from Pittsburg State University and oversees the Master Gardener program in Shawnee County.



**Judy O'Mara**, Instructor and Diagnostician in the Department of Plant Pathology at Kansas State University has a Masters of Plant Pathology and Extension Education from New Mexico State University.

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**Sick Plant Clinic is a free service offered through K-State and Shawnee County Extension Master Gardeners. Bring your gardening and horticultural dilemmas and let our experts diagnose and prescribe treatment for your ailing lawn, trees, vegetables and ornamentals.**



## COLLECTING PLANT SAMPLES FOR DIAGNOSIS

**Tree and shrub samples** – should consist of a section of twig or branch, with leaves attached; multiple samples that reflect different stages of the problem are helpful

**Garden Crops and Annual Flowers** – include entire plant with roots intact

**Perennial Flowers and Ground Covers** - try to dig portion of the affected part (with some roots)

**Turfgrass** – samples should be six to eight inches across and a couple of inches deep taken at the interface between good and bad grass (with some of each)

**Plant Identification** – the presence of flowers makes weed or landscape plant identification easier

**Insect Identification** – insects with all body parts intact are easier to identify

### Handling Insect Samples

**Fleshy Caterpillars and “Worms”** – place in a liquid tight container of rubbing alcohol

**Moths and Butterflies** – place in a freezer for 24 hours, then place in a crush-proof box cushioned with tissue paper (never cotton – legs and antennae get tangled up in cotton and break off)

**Hard Bodied Beetles** – rubbing alcohol or freezing is acceptable

## CHECKLIST OF PERTINENT INFORMATION

1. Kind of plant – variety?
2. How long has it been established in its present location? – has it recently been transplanted?
3. Exposure – N E S W - full sun or shade?
4. What is the nature of the soil? - tight clay, drainage (surface and internal)
5. When did the problem first appear this season – was a similar problem experienced last year?
6. Are any other plants in the vicinity similarly affected? Is there a walnut tree in the vicinity?
7. What part of the plant was affected first? Top or bottom, which side?
8. Has there been any construction near the plant? How recently? Have underground utilities been installed or replaced near the plant recently?
9. Is the soil around the plant subject to foot or vehicular traffic that could lead to compaction? Is there pavement near the plant?
10. Have there been any weed killers used nearby? If so, what and when? Has salt or other ice melting material been used nearby?
11. What are the symptoms that have appeared? How have they progressed? Is there any pattern of development?
12. What program of watering and fertilizing has been followed?
13. Have there been any fungicides or insecticides used on the plant? If so, what and when?
14. Is there evidence of mechanical damage to the plant (e.g. lawn mower/nylon cord trimmer). Are stem girdling roots visible at the base of the tree?
15. Are there any suspicious insects present? What do they look like?