



Plant Information Desk, The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University
 125 Arborway, Boston, MA 02130
 617-384-5235

Today's date _____

REQUEST FOR IDENTIFICATION OF PLANT

PRINT form and fill in by hand; or SAVE form and fill in electronically, then email to plantinfo@arnarb.harvard.edu

Please be aware that we do NOT have a professional taxonomist available to help in plant identifications. We will make an attempt to help you if we can. A color photo of the plant, close-up, or any of its parts, would be helpful. We regret that we cannot return any photos you may send us. A Plant Information volunteer will endeavor to identify plant material. This can be attempted only if the plant is prepared in the proper way. You can mail in your sample or drop it off at the Hunnewell Visitor Center. All plant material (except fruit) **MUST BE PRESSED FLAT BETWEEN CARDBOARD** as described below.

PLEASE PREPARE SAMPLE TO BE IDENTIFIED, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The sample must include several complete leaves attached to a piece of stem or twig at least 5 to 7 inches long, and, if at all possible, at least 1 flower or flower cluster or fruit. The larger the specimen, the better, up to about 18 inches. (You may fold it back on itself.) Leaves should represent typical foliage, not only new growth, which is often smaller and lighter in color.
2. Place sample in a fold of a few sheets of newspaper. **DO NOT TAPE SAMPLE TO PAPER.** We need to be able to turn it over.
3. Place this between two pieces of cardboard and tie or tape the cardboards so sample stays flat.
4. **DO NOT ENCLOSE IN PLASTIC nor PLASTIC-LINED ENVELOPE.** Many specimens arrive unusable and looking like brown mush because they were bagged in plastic.

Please write clearly, and answer the questions below as completely as possible.

Plant size: Height _____ Width _____ Tree ___ Shrub ___ Herbaceous _____

If a tree, what is the diameter at breast height (approximately 4' above ground)? _____

Age of plant, approximate if not known with certainty _____

COLOR and SIZE of FLOWER _____ Date flowers were seen _____

COLOR, SIZE, SHAPE of FRUIT _____ Date fruit was seen _____

A sketch or photo of flowers or fruit would be helpful.

Location of plant: (City, State) _____

Other description: unusual leaf color, bark, etc. _____

Exposure: (sun, shade, part sun/part shade, woods, slope, swamp, other) _____

Environmental location: (sunny slope, house foundation etc., please be specific) _____

Date you collected the attached specimen (this is very important!) _____

Is this plant in: your own garden ___ a wild situation ___ Other (please be specific) _____

Please attempt to give us all of the above information, as well as any other that you can add or think may be important. Use the reverse side of this sheet or attach another. Your request will not be referred to a staff person; this service is provided by volunteers.

Name _____

Address _____ City, State _____ Zip _____

Tel No(s) _____ Email _____

Are you a member of "Friends of the Arnold Arboretum"? Yes ___ No ___

We cannot guarantee that our volunteers will be able to identify your specimen, nor that the identification we offer will be accurate, but we will do our best.

This form MUST accompany digital image(s) and/or plant sample. Use separate sheet for each sample 9/2010