



TAKING PHOTOS OF TREES FOR EXPERT IDENTIFICATION*

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Extension personnel often receive questions regarding the identification of a particular tree. The current accessibility of digital photography, email, and text messaging provides the easiest means to submitting specimens for identification.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

1. Take close-up photos of the specimen with a digital camera. Please consider the following:
 - a. Select a specimen that shows as many distinguishing characteristics of a species as possible.
 - b. If there is a dramatic variation in leaf shape on a single plant, include photographs of all leaf shapes, including the backside of leaves. (Figure 1).
 - c. Unique characteristics are particularly important to include such as thorns, twigs and branching pattern, flowers, fall color, or fruits/nuts if available (Figure 2).
 - d. Include a photograph of the bark showing its characteristics (Figure 3).
 - e. Finally, send a photograph of the tree in the landscape showing its form (Figure 4).
 - f. If necessary, crop the photos to reduce their size for easier downloading.
2. When sending your photographs to Extension personnel, or uploading to the UGA Diagnostics system, include your contact information and as much information as possible from the following page, including size, history, habitat, and location of the tree. The more information provided about the current characteristics of the tree will help with identification.



Figure 1: *Leaf*



Figure 1: *Flower*



Figure 1: *Bark*



Figure 1: *Landscape and form*

*Note: Guidelines here also pertain to pest and pathogen diagnosis.

TREE IDENTIFICATION REQUEST INFORMATION

Specimen Description

Age (approx.)

Specimen includes leaves

Yes:

No:

Twigs

Opposite:

Alternate:

Fruit:

Yes:

No:

Flower:

Yes:

No:

Plant origin

naturally occurring:

planted:

unknown:

Plant size (approx.)

height:

diameter (at breast height):

Form

single stem:

multi-stem:

Site drainage: very poorly (standing water), poorly, somewhat poorly, moderately well, well or excessively drained soils

Other:

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