

SAMPLING GUIDE

Guava root-knot nematode

Guava root-knot nematode (GRKN, *Meloidogyne enterolobii*) is a damaging microscopic pest, found mainly in tropical areas. In Australia, it has been found in residential gardens and commercial farms in the Northern Territory and limited sites in Queensland. Its potential spread is uncertain, and its wide host range and absence of resistant hosts complicate control and increase potential damage.

What do infected plants look like?

GRKN disrupts plant root systems, affecting water and nutrient uptake, impacting growth and yield. Symptoms include yellowing, stunting, wilting, and lumpy root-knot nematode galling. Tuber crops may also be damaged, reducing saleability.



Image credits: Tony Pattison (a, b, c), Sebastian Kiewnick (d) and Wayne O'Neill (e)

What should you do if you suspect GRKN?

Get in touch or submit a sample!

To help researchers learn about where this nematode is found, how it lives, and its effects, please send samples of any plant material you think might be infected with GRKN to a diagnostic lab.

Speak to Dr Mel Ford

(08) 8999 2218

melanie.ford@nt.gov.au

or

Plant Pathology

plant.pathology@nt.gov.au



Submit a sample!

If you see symptoms of root knot nematodes, you can grab a sample & send it in for ID.

Turn over to see our quick guide on how to sample for GRKN.



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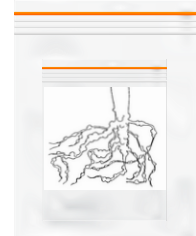
1. Look for plants (crop or weeds) that appear stunted, wilted, yellow, &/or generally less healthy than the rest.



2. For annual crops & weeds: gently pull up the root system to look for lumps (galls). Cut the top off the plant, shake off excess soil and place the roots in a zip lock plastic bag.

For perennial crops: dig around the root system, 100-300 mm under the soil surface, and look for lumpy roots. Using secateurs, cut off the roots and place in a zip lock plastic bag.

3. Double bag by placing the plastic bag of roots into another bag.



4. Using a permanent marker, label the bag with date, crop/plant type (if known), and location (e.g., Batchelor, Humpty Doo, etc.)

5. Clean your boots, trowel, secateurs, etc. by removing all soil and spraying/washing with a 1% bleach solution.



6. Fill out a Plant Disease Diagnosis Request form. Copies are available at the Berrimah Farm sample drop-off point, or scan the QR code below to download a copy.

7. Call or email to let us know you are sending a sample (08) 8999 2218 or plant.pathology@nt.gov.au

8. You can deliver or courier your samples to:

Attn: Mel Ford
Berrimah Farm Science Precinct
CSS Building, 29 Makagon Road
Berrimah, NT 0828

If you are in a regional location, please contact our team to discuss other options, including drop-off at a regional research station.

