

# The Diagnostic Process... Of an Internship

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Plant Diagnostic Clinic - Denver County

## What I Knew Before

- Learned about plant pathology from tree health management and a plant pathology course
- Had previous lab experience through a fellowship and through my classes' labs
- Knew I was interested in diagnostics and was eager to learn more



## What's the Plant Diagnostic Clinic (PDC)?:

The PDC is a clinic at CSU Spur where people from the community can submit diseased plants to be diagnosed by the clinic



## Internship Goals

- Help at the PDC, and learn the diagnostic process and skills
- Create publications on diseases and pests in Colorado
- Help with other education and outreach projects at CSU Spur
- Expand my community and resources within the Agricultural Biology department

## Outreach

- Created fact sheets for damping off, verticillium wilt, alfalfa stem nematode, and tomato spotted wilt virus – these new fact sheets will be helpful for the Colorado community
- Created an infographic for fire blight to complement the existing fact sheet for this disease
- Helped with high school and adult education materials



## Lab Experiences

- Gained knowledge on plant diagnostics by processing clinic samples
- Learned how to consult compendia to diagnose a specimen
- Learned more about the diseases that affect Colorado plants
- Learned how to do nematode extractions and use identification keys
- Strengthened my microscopy skills to more affectively find evidence of certain pathogens

## Essential Skills

- Communicated with clients about the sample submission process to clients
- Strengthened networking skills at the clinic, CSU Spur, and at the Plant Health 2023 Meeting
- Strengthened written communication skills by creating the fact sheets

## "Results" – Conclusion

- I have strengthened my interpersonal skills through client communication, teamwork, and networking with other scientists
- I broadened by technical skills by learning new laboratory methods related to plant disease diagnostics
- I have contributed to Extension efforts by creating fact sheets and education materials to be used for Extension purposes



If you can pronounce phytophthora [fahy-tof-ther-uh], you're probably a plant pathologist.

