

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING PLANT PHOTOS FOR IDENTIFICATION

Marc S. Frank
UF/IFAS Plant Identification and Information Service
University of Florida Herbarium
Florida Museum of Natural History



Submitting photos by email

- Identifying plants from photos is challenging, so it is especially helpful if you include the same **location, context, and plant description** information that you would provide on a sample submission form or in DDIS
- Please be sure to tell us **what county** the plant is growing in. If the plant was photographed out of state or out of country, it is very useful if you tell us where!



Submitting photos by email

- Generally a single photo is not sufficient for confident identification. Try to take:
 - a photo of the entire plant
 - a close-up of the stem with leaves (so we can see leaf arrangement)
 - a close-up of flowers or fruit
- Include a ruler or coin in the photo for scale if possible

Examples of photos showing diagnostic characteristics:




Examples of photos of limited diagnostic value:





Submitting photos by email: photo quality is very important!

- Make sure your photos are in focus and the plant you want identified is clear and obvious, not obscured by glaring sunlight or shade
- Photos need to be high enough resolution that we can zoom in and see plant details without the image become pixilated



Submitting photos by email— just doesn't work for certain types of plants

- Generally, we are not able to provide genus- or species-level IDs on grasses or sedges based on photos. For grasses and sedges, we need to look at a physical sample under a microscope