he following are tips on how to take good photos and

Although a ruler may be ideal, common objects can provide a good sense of scale and specimen size.

Provide written context

Plant Problems and Plant ID

Problems

Take photos of all symptomatic parts of the plant. Inspect all aspects of the plant, not just the area with

Plant identification

We need to see reproductive parts of the plant (flowers, fruits, seedheads), leaf arrangement (alternate or opposite branching), leaf margins, and buds. Show us both the whole plant and close up views.

Take a photo of the full plant and a closeup of the leaf. (photo credit: HGIC)

Photo of both leaves and buds help us ID the plant. (photo credit HGIC)

Grasses and grass-like plant identification

These are challenging to itbnu1g12 9(it)70(fl)13(f)-2(eBT/ 9 0 12 4 2 CID T/F2 1 3 5 P1 0 1 0 3 1 1 3 4 TmlP? p a)10()]TJET

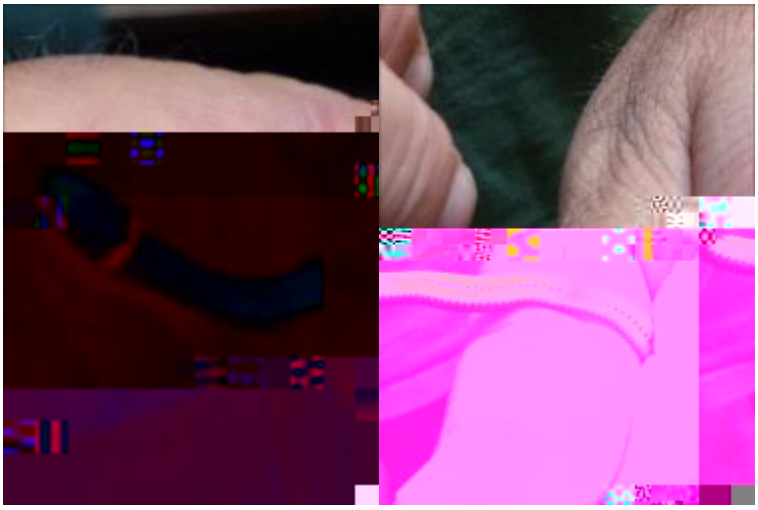
Leaf arrangement (rolled or folded?)
Root system (fibrous? Rhizomes or stolons? Bulbs?)

Insects

Crumpled insects without an indicator of size makes ID very difficult.
Photos need to be in good natural light. In focus. Top, bottom, and side views if possible.
Capture flying or crawling insects in a container and put them in the freezer for 15 minutes to stop their activity and hold them still for a photo.
Put an object next to the insect (ruler, coin) for size.

Snake, lizard, amphibian identification

If possible, take photos of the top and bottom of the animal. Patterns and colorizations help with identification.
If you are unsure if an animal is safe to handle (the animal may be aggressive or sick), do not touch it.



Dorsal and ventral coloration and patterns aid Identification of snake species such as the ring-necked snake (top two photos) and Eastern garter snake (bottom two photos).