

Tips for taking photos with a macro lens

A macro lens can be attached to the camera of your mobile device to take pictures of plant pests and symptoms of diseases. The lens enlarges the subject while maintaining the resolution of the image, allowing an expert to make an accurate diagnosis.

When to use a macro lens

A macro lens is useful when taking pictures of things that are very small and that you can get to within 1cm of with your phone camera. If the subject of the photo is more than 1cm away, the camera on your device can be used without the macro lens.

A macro lens can be used with most mobile devices, unless the clip on the lens doesn't fit over the camera lens.

If you have a thick case on your device you might need to remove it so that the macro lens sits firmly against the camera lens.

A macro lens will work well for small pests that are relatively slow moving or still, and for most diseases.

The normal camera on your mobile device should be used to get a broader view of the situation and an image of the overall damage to the plant or number of pests.

How to take the best photos

Clearer photos will help identify the problem. Below are some simple tips to help you.

- Choose your location – if it's windy, carefully remove a sample and take the photo in a sheltered place.
- Keep your lens clean – grime and fingerprints on the lens will give hazy, dark images.
- Focus on your subject – when in camera mode, tap the screen of your device screen to select the part of the image you would like to be in focus, then press the shutter release button.
- Image quality is important – set the image resolution as high as possible, so an expert can zoom in on the image to look at fine details.
- Get close to your subject – digital zoom will degrade your image quality so get as close as you can.
- Try not to use the flash – bright light can change the appearance of a pest's natural markings.

How to submit your photos

There are a number of ways to send your photos for identification by an expert entomologist or pathologist.

- If you're a grain grower you can use the GrowNotes™ Alert to send in images of pests and diseases for diagnosis.
- If you're in WA then you can use the MyPestGuide Reporter app to send in images of pests and diseases for diagnosis.
- Anyone can call the Emergency Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881 and ask where you should send your image.



**IF YOU SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL,
CALL THE EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE**

1800 084 881



Correct (left) and incorrect (right) macro lens distance from subject



Close up of disease with (left) and without (right) macro lens



Wide shot with (left) and without (right) macro lens