

WSU Honey Bee Diagnostic Lab

Field Sampling Protocol For the collection of LIVE BEES

Materials needed for sampling:

- Wide mouth, screw top, plastic container: approximately 6 oz size. Medical sample cup is recommended.
- Deep walled pan: dish washing basin
- 1 cup measuring cup or equivalent
- #2 pencil and paper for internal label
- Permanent marker: sharpie
- Mailer and packing material
- Colony Health Form- **MUST ACCOMPANY SAMPLE**
- 2 ziplock bags
- Rubbing alcohol (70% Isopropyl alcohol)
- **ONLY COLLECT LIVE BEES**- Collection of dead bees will not yield accurate data and may not be tested.

Instructions:

This can be done before going out into yard:

1. Fill plastic sampling cup ½ full with rubbing alcohol.
2. Write sample number and date on 1”x1” piece of paper, place inside cup.
Use #2 pencil. Sample ID # should include initials/location and hive/sample number. Write clearly. This sample ID# should also be identified on your Colony Health Form. It is important that you know how to identify your sample. It is important that the Diagnostic Lab can identify your sample.
3. Fill out Colony Health Form completely. Contact information, including email address, phone number, date/location/sample ID# must be present to process sample in timely manner. Place Registration form in separate ziplock bag.
4. Remove outermost brood frame and shake bees into plastic dishpan.
5. Scoop approximately 1/2 – 1 cup of bees with measuring cup into sampling cup. About 200 bees. **Do not include the queen** in your sample by mistake. Make sure she is not on the frame that you shake. Try not to include drones.
6. A quick shake of the measuring cup into the sampling cup and close the lid with bees now in alcohol. Turn upside down if necessary.
7. Wait 24 hrs. Cover top of container with piece of paper towel. (This will help ensure that varroa mites are not poured off with alcohol.) Pour off standing

- alcohol through paper towel. Residual alcohol is acceptable. Make sure paper label is not lost. Include paper towel in separate ziplock.
8. Replace lid on sampling cup. Lid should be snug to tight.
 9. Dry off container and write on outside of container with sharpie marker: name, date, sample #.
 10. Place sample container into ziplock plastic bag.
 11. Choose mailer: padded envelope, small flat rate box or box of appropriate size depending on number of samples.
 12. Address mailer with WSU Honey Bee Diagnostic Lab address and return address.
 13. Place sample and Colony Health Form in mailer. Use packing material to keep sample(s) from shifting.

Please mail samples to:

WSU Honey Bee Diagnostic Lab
Department of Entomology
Washington State University
166 FSHN
Pullman, WA 99164-6382

Our email address:

Beediagnosis.fd@wsu.edu

Check out Honey Bee news, upcoming workshops and updates on the new home to the WSU Honey Bee Program on the WSU Entomology website:

<http://bees.wsu.edu/>

Sampling protocols and Colony Health Forms can be found at:

<http://bees.wsu.edu/diagnostic-lab/>

The WSU Honey Bee Diagnostic Lab accepts samples for the analysis of varroa mite, tracheal mite and nosema infestations.

The WSU Diagnostic Lab would like to recognize the efforts of beekeepers in promoting honey bee health and thank the many beekeepers who have donated to the Lab. To make a donation, please visit our website. Donations can be made directly to the Lab, to the Building Fund, and to the Entomology Department.

Happy Beekeeping!