

Field Sampling Protocol

1. Partially fill plastic bottles (see below) with rubbing alcohol (70% Isopropyl alcohol) – one per colony to be sampled. Note: Bees must be completely submerged in alcohol with approximately half an inch liquid above bee level.
2. Remove lid/inner hive cover and shake bees into a deep walled pan*.
3. Scoop up 3/4 cup of bees with measuring cup (see below) and funnel into a plastic bottle containing alcohol. (if you cannot collect 3/4 cup, get at least 1/2 a cup). Close lid securely.
4. Write sample number and date of collection, with pencil, on a small piece of paper (approximately one square inch) and place inside bottle. Sample number should be your initials followed by the numerals referring to the specific colony being sampled.
5. Allow bees to soak in alcohol for at least 12 hours, preferably 24.
6. **Pour off all alcohol**, leaving wet bees in the sealed plastic bottles. Postal regulations do not permit shipment of alcohol to the diagnostic laboratory.
7. Mail samples in a box or padded envelope to:

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

*If there are not enough bees on the lid/inner hive cover to fill half to one cup of bees, shake bees from outer frames. Note: Returning foragers may also be sampled by temporarily closing colony and collecting them with an insect net. Make notation of sample source (i.e. foragers or in-house bees) in submitted paperwork.

Materials needed for sampling:

MATERIALS	EXAMPLES
Plastic bottle	Urine sample bottle, Nalgene bottle, honey jar
Deep-walled pan	Rectangular plastic dishpan
1 cup measuring cup	Cooking measuring cup