

How to collect and ship samples for pathogen diagnostics

Sampling

1. When you head out to the hive/apiary to collect your sample(s), bring with you a small, lidded plastic container for every hive you plan to sample and a small cooler of dry ice.
2. Sample at least 120 live workers from a brood frame.
 - a. Once you have made sure the queen is not on your chosen frame, you may scoop bees directly off the frame into your sample container.
 - b. Label the container with a hive name or number and the date. Use a permanent marker and write directly on the container. (Stickers sometimes fall off.)
 - c. Contact us if you want more instructions on how to sample bees off a frame.
3. Immediately place the sample(s) in your cooler of dry ice.
 - a. Nestle the samples into the dry ice to help them freeze quickly.
 - b. Never store samples in a standard freezer or on regular ice packs for any reason.
4. If you also want us to test for mite levels and/or Nosema, include an *additional* sample of ~300 workers from a brood frame.

Shipping

1. Pack samples with dry ice in a small plastic cooler or a Styrofoam cooler packed snugly in a cardboard box.
 - a. Break up large blocks of dry ice into small pieces. Remember that cold sinks. When packing the cooler for shipment, make sure there is dry ice on top of the samples as well as below. To avoid hazardous waste shipping issues, do not include more than 5 lbs. of dry ice in any one package.
 - b. Fill dead space in the cooler with dry ice or packing material so sample containers cannot move around.
 - c. Securely tape the cooler closed. Make sure the lid will not come off, but do not tape the entire perimeter of the lid to the body of the cooler. For safety reasons, shipping companies require that containers with dry ice are not airtight. They must be able to release pressure.
 - d. Place the taped-up cooler in a snug cardboard box, or fill the box with packing material so the cooler cannot move in the box.
2. In the shipment, include a brief written description of the condition of the colony (for example; strong or weak, details of brood, any knowledge about mite levels, honey stores, etc.) and your name, email address and phone number.
3. Ship samples via FedEx or UPS Overnight as soon as possible after collection. Only sample and ship on Mon/Tue/Wed. No one is here to accept packages on the weekends.
 - a. Ship to this exact address: Honey Bee Lab
OSU Horticulture
2750 SW Campus Way; **ALS 4017**
Corvallis, OR 97331
541-737-3695

Contact us if you have questions: 541-737-1447, hannah.lucas@oregonstate.edu