

How to Submit Samples

Submission of Samples for Diagnosis:

General Instructions

- Beekeepers, bee businesses, and regulatory officials may submit samples.
 - Samples are accepted from U.S. states and territories, and from Canada; samples are NOT accepted from other countries. For samples originating from Canada [click here](#).
 - Include a short description of the problem along with your name, address, phone number or e-mail address.
 - There is no charge for this service.
 - For additional information, contact Bart Smith by phone at (301) 504-8821 or e-mail: bart.smith@ars.usda.gov
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How to Send Adult Honey Bees

- Send at least 100 bees and if possible, select bees that are dying or that died recently. Decayed bees are not satisfactory for examination.
 - Bees should be placed in and soaked with 70% ethyl, methyl, or isopropyl alcohol as soon as possible after collection and packed in leak-proof containers.
 - USPS, UPS, and FedEx do not accept shipments containing alcohol. Just prior to mailing samples, pour off all excess alcohol to meet shipping requirements.
 - Do NOT send bees dry (without alcohol).
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How to send brood samples

- A comb sample should be at least 2 x 2 inches and contain as much of the dead or discolored brood as possible. **NO HONEY SHOULD BE PRESENT IN THE SAMPLE.**
 - The comb can be sent in a paper bag or loosely wrapped in a paper towel, newspaper, etc. and sent in a heavy cardboard box. **AVOID** wrappings such as plastic, aluminum foil, waxed paper, tin, glass, etc. because they promote decomposition and the growth of mold.
 - If a comb cannot be sent, the probe used to examine a diseased larva in the cell may contain enough material for tests. The probe can be wrapped in paper and sent to the laboratory in an envelope.
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Send samples to:

Bee Disease Diagnosis
Bee Research Laboratory
Bldg. 306 Room 316
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center - East
Beltsville, MD 20705
