

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. 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. Thus, WSBA president Jerry Tate would send in samples as JT1, JT2, etc.
3. Remove lid/inner hive cover and shake bees into a deep walled pan (see below).
4. Scoop up **one cup of bees** with measuring cup (see below) and funnel into a plastic bottle containing alcohol. (if you cannot collect one full cup, get **at least ½ a cup**). Close lid securely. Reinforce lid with tape or wax paper if possible to avoid spillage while shipping.
 - 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.
5. Mail samples in a box or padded envelope to:

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

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