



Insect Identification and Diagnosis Request

Send physical Samples to: Insect Identification Lab, Dept. of Entomology (0319), Price Hall, Rm. 216
170 Drillfield Dr., Blacksburg, VA 24061

Images: email good clear JPEG with a scan of this completed form to: idlab@vt.edu

Agent name _____ Grower/Homeowner _____

See back of form for important information on replies Address _____

County/City _____

Signature _____ Phone _____

1. Date Collected _____ 2. Host _____

3. For plant pests: Distribution: ☐ One plant ☐ Several Plants ☐ Scattered ☐ Clumped ☐ Widespread
Damage: ☐ Roots ☐ Bark ☐ Twigs/Stems ☐ Leaves ☐ Bud ☐ Fruit

4. For inside pests: In what part of the building or house was the insect found? _____

5. Insect abundance: ☐ none observed ☐ one ☐ few ☐ common ☐ abundant ☐ extreme

6. a.) Description of the problem, b.) How serious is the damage:

6. c.) Date insects or damage first found? _____ last years crop? _____

7. Previous occurrence and control applied _____

8. Do you desire a control recommendation? ☐ yes ☐ no

9. ☐ Commercial Grower or Farmer ☐ Homeowner ☐ Urban Pest Control Operator ☐ Medical doctor
☐ Park, School, Nature Center ☐ other _____

See back of form for collecting and shipping instructions

Do not write below this line

10. File no. _____ 11. Date Received ____/____/20____

12. Common Name _____

13. Comments

14. Reply sent by email _____ 15. Determined by _____

www.ext.vt.edu

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VT/0516/ENTO-196NP

Replies will be sent only to agents, office staff, and designated volunteers, who must be listed on the top of the form. If only the agents name is listed, a single copy will be sent to the agents vt.edu email address. Replies will not be sent to homeowners or growers, as the lab is a service to Extension Agents. Agents should contact clients after receiving a reply from the Insect Identification Lab.

How to collect and send insects

- If possible, send several samples of the insect and/or different life stages. Insects should not be shipped alive. Place insect in a vial supplied to the extension office with ethanol (grain alcohol) to kill and preserve the insect.
- Mail vials in mailing tubes or sturdy boxes, not in padded envelopes.
- Dead, dry insects can be submitted in pillboxes or similar containers. Wrap insect in tissue paper to protect the specimen.

How to send Plant Material

Leaves, stems, or roots with insect or mite damage should be placed in a plastic bag that is left open so that it does not get moldy. Ship this bag in a box or padded envelope.

How to send Images

Email images in JPEG format with the highest possible resolution. Include in the body of the email all information requested on the front of this form. Preserve the specimen, as it may need to be submitted if the photograph is not adequate. Send to: idlab@vt.edu

Data

Fill out this form completely; replies may be delayed if we need to request additional information.

Policy on Skin collected samples As of March 1, 2015, the Insect Identification Lab at Virginia Tech will no longer accept samples in cases involving microscopic (“invisible”) arthropods or biting/crawling sensations on the skin if submitted by private individuals. Individuals wishing to submit samples from the human body (i.e., skin, scabs, blood, tissue, etc.) must have the samples collected by a medical professional and submitted from the medical office directly in either alcohol or as a slide with accompanying documentation. In addition, we will also no longer accept samples of vacuum cleaner dirt/dust, floor sweepings, and things of a similar nature if they are related to microscopic (“invisible”) arthropods or biting/crawling sensations on the skin. If any samples of these types are mailed to the Insect Identification Lab, even if sent by an extension office, it may be discarded by the Lab Manager. For health safety reasons extension offices should no longer accept samples collected from human skin and refer anyone with those type of sample to a medical doctor.

Exceptions: Ticks, suspected nits, lice, and other parasites **visible to the naked eye** and submitted in alcohol may be accepted at the discretion of the lab manager, who reserves the right to accept or reject the sample.

Form revised April 22, 2016. Eric R. Day