

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LIFE SCIENCES  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

# Plant Diagnostic Laboratory

## Sample Collection, Packaging and Shipping Guidelines for Insect Samples

*Images are encouraged for all insect samples*  
Please submit images to [plantlab@uri.edu](mailto:plantlab@uri.edu).

### Sample Collection

- If possible, submit several insects in a crush-proof container (ie. pill bottle, film container) to keep the specimen intact as it goes through the mail.
- Inspect your plants thoroughly. Insects may be in different life stages. If this is the case, collect the separate type of insect stages (eggs, larvae, pupa, or adults) in a different bottle.
- When collecting unknown insects in your backyard, use disposable gloves, as some insects may produce chemicals that may irritate your skin.

### Sample Packaging and Shipping Instructions

1. Complete the Insect Sample Submission Form. Provide as much of the information we request as possible – this will help us diagnose the issue!
2. Send images or photos to [plantlab@uri.edu](mailto:plantlab@uri.edu) with [Insect Sample photos\_Your Name] in the subject line of the email.
3. Include a check payable to “URI” for \$20.00 per insect sample with the sample and form.
4. Place the sample/ bottle with the specimen in a padded mailer envelope or box, along with your payment and the completed form.
5. Ship the sample early in the week to prevent samples sitting in the mail over the weekend.
6. Mail your sample to:

**Kathleen M. Mallon Outreach Center**  
o Plant Diagnostic Laboratory  
3 East Alumni Avenue Kingston, RI  
02881

A diagnostic report will be sent to your email within 5 to 10 days.