

INSECT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES
COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Residents are encouraged to submit unfamiliar insects to the lab for identification. These insects are important to our program of protecting US and California agriculture because resident submissions often allow us to become aware of exotic pests and how widespread they are in San Diego County.

Please bring fresh, intact insects to the lab for determination (further details below). When you submit insects you must complete a "Specimen for Determination" form that requires a complete mailing/email address and a description of where the insect was collected. You may either print a form from this website and mail it with the insect, or drop off the specimen and fill out the form at the AWM office. Your insect determination is usually returned by email within 2 weeks of submission with information on the insect.

Please ensure that you have COMPLETELY and LEGIBLY filled out the email and/or address portion of the form because this is used by the US Postal Service to deliver your results.

Below is a link to the specimen determination form:

[http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/awm/docs/Plant_Pathology_AWM_1301- DeterminationForm\(Rev01_12\).pdf](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/awm/docs/Plant_Pathology_AWM_1301-DeterminationForm(Rev01_12).pdf)

You may mail or drop off the specimen at the North County Office or the Kearny Mesa Agriculture, Weights & Measures Offices, addresses and telephone numbers below.

North County Office:

Agriculture, Weights & Measures County of San Diego
151 East Carmel Street
San Marcos, CA 92078 760-752-4700

Kearny Mesa Office:

Agriculture, Weights & Measures County of San Diego
9325 Hazard Way, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123-1256 858-694-2739

TIPS ON INSECT COLLECTION AND SAMPLE SUBMISSION

From the Garden. If the insects are living on the leaf tissue of a tomato plant, snip a branch off of the tomato plant and immediately drop the specimen into a plastic zipper bag with air. If they are hopping insects such as a psyllid, it is best to carefully place the plastic bag over the end of the branch first, close the bag and then cut the branch to prevent the insects from flying away once disturbed.

From the Home. The insects should be delivered in a plastic zipper bag, jar, pill bottle or small plastic container. The insect may be preserved in alcohol if possible.

If not, a small container will do. Avoid submitting samples on tape, or which have been squished, but insect sticky traps may be submitted. Our entomologists only deals with pests of agricultural concern; therefore you should contact County Vector Control 858-694-2888 for expertise on pet or human health insects (e.g. biting or blood-feeding insects). The entomologist does not deal with insects of medical concern.

GOLD SPOTTED OAK BORER (GSOB) COLLECTION

Dr. Tom Coleman, US Forest Health Protection, suggests the public buys traps from Synergy Semiochemical Company if they want to trap for GSOB. This commercially-manufactured purple trap (the same ones deployed by the US Forest Service for GSOB and emerald ash borer) can be purchased from Synergy Semiochemical Company (PHONE #: 604-454-1122 or 604-568-8501 E-mail: synergy@semiochemical.com). The purple color of the trap has a specific reflectance that makes it effective. Homeowners will not be able to make their own effective color trap due to the specific color requirement. Dr. Coleman warns against digging into a living tree to find larvae. It is difficult to find larvae and the attempt may do more harm than good. However, on a newly felled tree or branch, the larvae can be found just under the bark during the fall to spring.

The Entomology Laboratory welcomes all submissions associated with the commercial production of an agricultural commodity. The Lab will also assist the pest control industry as staffing permits, as well as citizens with residential concerns.

Thank you.