



VERMONT  
BEE LAB

# How to Collect a Pollen Sample for Pesticide Analysis

Vermont Bee Lab, University of Vermont

*These instructions depict a Sundance bottom mounted pollen trap. You are welcome to use any pollen trap for sample collection.*



**Step 1:** Sample one hive per apiary. Turn your pollen trap 'on' to start trapping. When the opening is at the bottom of the front plate, the pollen trap is collecting pollen from incoming foragers. Time trapping according to your assigned month. Leave the trap on for two full days of sunny weather before collecting your pollen sample.



**Step 2:** Turn your pollen trap 'off' after two days. Loosen the eyelet screw on the front plate and use your hive tool to wedge the front plate down. When the opening is at the top of the front plate, the trap is no longer collecting pollen from incoming foragers.



**Step 3:** Move to the back of the hive where the mesh tray is inserted into the pollen trap. Pull the tray out of its slot to expose the trapped pollen.



**Step 4:** Be sure have your sample collection container nearby. The Vermont Bee Lab will provide you with sample containers upon request. Additional sample containers are located at your nearest VBL drop box. Any clean plastic or glass container will work (including Ziploc bags).



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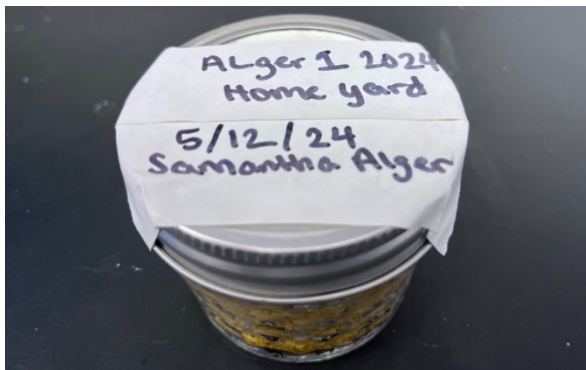
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**Step 5:** Bump the pollen into one corner of the tray and pour into your clean sample collection container. NOTE do not touch pollen with bare hands or hive tool to avoid contamination.



**Step 6:** We require *at least* 5 grams of pollen per apiary for pesticide analysis. To ensure a homogenized sample, we recommend pouring the entire contents of your tray into the sample collection container.



**Step 7:** Label each sample container.

- Sample ID (Last Name-#-Year)
- Beekeeper Name
- Apiary Name
- Date Collected

Samples must be stored in the freezer immediately. Ship your sample to the Vermont Bee Lab or hand-deliver only on scheduled 'drop-off' days. Samples should always be transported on ice packs.

## Pesticide Sample Submission Form Vermont Bee Lab, University of Vermont



Beekeeper name:	
Email:	
Phone:	
Assigned sampling month (circle):	May June July Aug
County:	

### Fill in a row for each sample to be submitted:

Sample ID (Last Name, #, year):	Apiary name:	Apiary address or GPS coordinates:	Trap start date:	Trap end date:	Field notes:

**Step 8:** Complete a submission form and include it with your samples when shipping or delivering to our lab.

For more information, contact Vermont Bee Lab at [vbl@uvm.edu](mailto:vbl@uvm.edu).