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How to package bugs for shipment, identification

LANCASTER - The extension service's telephone lines are busy this time of year as hungry insects start munching their way through our flower and vegetable gardens

We can never be sure just which pests will be a problem in a particular season, say university entomologists, but we can be sure there will always be some potentially harmful pests in the area from the first warm spring days until

Successful control of destructive plant pests requires doing the right thing at the right time. Today we have the knowledge and the tools to manage most known pests. But first we must know what insect we are talking about.

Once we know its identity, we can learn whether it is destructive or beneficial: what it eats; what stages in its development are injurious; and where the weak moisture in a pint jar.

points are in its life cycle the vulnerable points for control.

Extension entomologists are happy to help you identify your plant pests and to make control recommendations. However, it is usually difficult to make a positive identification from a telephone description, since "a great big black bug" could be almost anything.

Here's how to prepare insects for mailing:

Shipping Live Insects 1. Keep insects in a tightly closed container - a jar, pill vial, etc. Don't punch holes in the cover. There is enough air in a pint jar to keep several insects alive for days.

2. Keep insects cool but not

3. Keep insects out of direct sunlight.

4. Insects need moisture. One or two fresh green leaves (size of a lima bean leaf) will provide enough

5 Give insects something to hang onto - twigs, crumpled paper, paper towel, etc.

6. Provide sufficient padding between the submitted specimens and the shipping container Always

mark fragile on the outside of your package. **Shipping Dead Specimens**

1 Soft-bodied insects such as caterpillars and aphids should be placed in alcohol -70 to 75 percent ethyl or grain alcohol is best. Rubbing alcohol is acceptable if nothing else is available. At least half the contents should be alcohol. Secure all container stoppers before shipping

2. Tiny insects (ants, aphids, etc.) should be shipped in vials of alcohol as described above.

3. Larger hard-bodied insects such as beetles, wasps and large flies should be placed in a small box or container between firmly held (not tightly packed) layers of cotton or tissue

Pinned or pointed insects cork block, and well-padded costly delays may result.

5. Be sure sufficient padding is placed between the submitted specimens and the shipping container. Excelsior, woodshavings, cotton or newspaper makes good padding for this purpose.

Don't forget to submit complete descriptive information with each shipment for identification.

A complete report should include: your name, address and telephone number; the date and place where you collected the specimen; the host plant and area of plant where the specimen was found; a description of the amount and kind of plant injury; and any other special notes.

Print all data insert slips using a dark lead pencil or India ink. This will remain readable even in alcohol.

Remember, it often makes identification easier if more than one specimen is avaılable.

Please follow these instructions carefully, says Boys. If material arrives in may be shipped with the pin poor condition, accurate inserted into styrofoam or a identification is difficult, and

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Delaware County offers summer 4-H

MEDIA — The Delaware County 4-H Clubs are offering summer projects at Immanuel Lutheran Church in East Lansdowne, Smedley Park, Fair Acres Center in Lima, and Springfield High School

Projects offered are minigardening, cooking, sewing, dramatics, woodworking,

animal science, hatching chicks, insect study, bicycle, and design A photography club for teenagers will be held two evenings per week throughout July at Immanuel Lutheran Church. For a complete schedule of events, contact Toni Gazarik, 4-H Assistant, at 215/891-7356.

