Insects:
How to find them, collect them and not get arrested for putting them in the mail.

Finding them…
Leaves and Foliage

- If leaves with feeding damage can be dried
- If leaves with pests on it ship fresh

The Options

- Dry
- Wet
  - Damp
  - Submerged
    - Ethyl Alcohol
    - Isopropyl Alcohol
Dry

- **Foliage**: flat between cardboard.
- **Dead insects**: pack them in slightly to prevent damage in shipping.
- **Live insects**: with a piece of dry paper towel to prevent drowning.

Dry

- **Foliage**: flat between cardboard.
- **Dead insects**: pack them in slightly to prevent damage in shipping.
- **Live insects**: with a piece of dry paper towel to prevent drowning.
**Damp**

- Fresh foliage with insects on it:
  - in a ziplock bag, shipped in a **BOX!!**
  - Best Method for Aphids, Mites, Galls, and small caterpillars & larvae
- Moths and Butterflies
  - in a ziplock bag with an alcohol saturated towel shipped in a **BOX!!**

**Saturated**

Placing a the specimen in a container with alcohol liquid preservative. (Isopropyl or Ethyl alcohol)

Best method for small, fleshy, or decaying specimens.

If you believe that the specimen is of research value (new, exotic, rare…) please use this method.

**Damp**

- Insects in a non-crushable container with a saturated piece of paper towel

  Best method for most hard bodied insects.

  Beetles, flies, wasps, spiders……..
Postal Laws

• Content markings such as "Perishable" must be applied to any package containing items or substances that can degrade or decompose rapidly …

.. hazardous articles must be marked and labeled under applicable standards. A container improperly identified by content is not acceptable for mailing

“INSECT SPECIMENS”

Hazardous Materials

Harmful matter …. likely to harm USPS employees or to destroy, deface, or otherwise damage mail or postal equipment. This includes materials such as caustic poisons (acids and alkalies), oxidizers, or highly flammable liquids, gases, or solids…..

Flammable Liquids

• Flammable liquid is prohibited in international mail.
• Flammable liquid with a flashpoint of 20°F (-7°C) or below is prohibited in domestic mail. Other flammable liquid is prohibited in domestic mail via air transportation but is permitted via surface transportation ….

10.13.3 Combustible Liquid Mailability

• Combustible liquid is prohibited in international mail. Combustible liquid is permitted in domestic mail if the material…. meet(s) the following conditions :

• a. For surface transportation, if the flashpoint is 100°F (38°C) but no more than 141°F (60.5°C); the liquid is in a metal primary receptacle not exceeding 1 gallon, or in another type of primary receptacle not exceeding 1 quart, per mailpiece;
The Options

- Isopropyl Alcohol [70%]
  - Flash point: 18°C
- Isopropyl Alcohol [12%]
  - Flash point: 38°C
- Ethyl Alcohol [95%]
  - Flash point: 15°C
- Ethyl Alcohol [25%]
  - Flash point: 38°C
- Nail Polish Remover
  - STRICTLY PROHIBITED

.....enough cushioning ... to absorb all potential leakage; the cushioning and primary receptacle are placed within a securely sealed secondary container that is placed within a strong outer shipping container; and each mail piece is plainly and durably marked on the address side with "Surface Only" or "Surface Mail Only"

The Exception

Research Specimen