

How to Submit Suspect Specimens of Redbay Ambrosia Beetle

The redbay ambrosia beetle (*Xyleborus glabratus*, Fig. 1) is the insect that transmits the laurel wilt disease pathogen. It is extremely small (Fig. 2), spends most of its life cycle within the host tree, and is difficult to find in the field. If a beetle you have collected is much larger than a grain of rice, it is not the redbay ambrosia beetle. If you have collected what you suspect is a redbay ambrosia beetle (such as from within an infested branch or stem, or from a survey trap), please follow these steps to submit an insect sample:

1. Place one or more of the suspect beetles in a small vial (plastic film container) with a cotton ball saturated with rubbing alcohol.
2. Fill out a sheet of paper with information about the sample (type of plant insect was found on, date collected, exact location of sample collection, plant symptoms observed (if any), your name, address and contact information).
3. Put the vial with the insect(s) in a plastic zip-lock bag and the paper containing collection information in another plastic zip-lock bag. Put all these bags into another bag to keep them together. Tightly seal all bags to prevent the possibility of live insects in the sample from escaping.
4. If possible, please send digital photos of the damage to the plant caused by the insect. Send these photos to Michael.Thomas@freshfromflorida.com or Timothy.Schubert@freshfromflorida.com. Prefer photo files to be jpegs, less than 5 MB.
5. Secure the samples in a sturdy box and write “redbay ambrosia beetles” clearly on the outside.
6. Send samples preferably by overnight mail early in the week so they can be quickly processed and don’t sit over the weekend. Send them to:

FDACS/Division of Plant Industry
Attn: Redbay Ambrosia Beetle Sample
1911 SW 34 Street
Gainesville FL 32608-1201
(352) 372-3505

When the samples arrive, someone familiar with redbay ambrosia beetle will screen the samples. You will be notified of the laboratory analysis.

