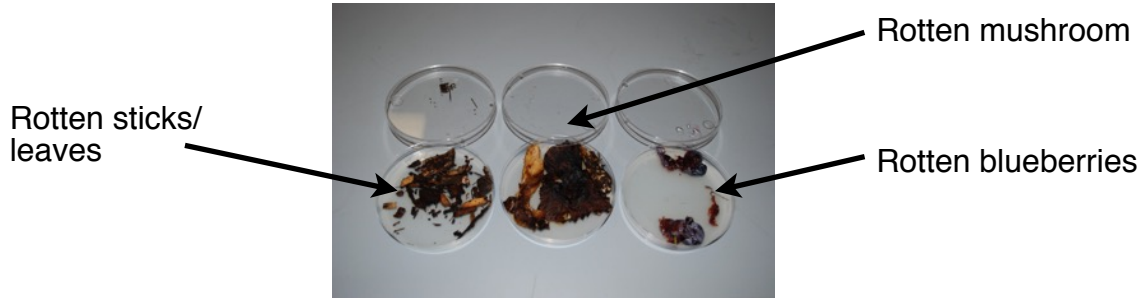


Thank you for collecting worms!

Nematodes are small invertebrate worms about a millimeter long. This image is magnified many times. The actual size of this animal is about the size of this period. Nematodes eat bacteria and fungi that grow on decaying material. These animals are found in soil, compost, and rotting vegetation (fruit, flowers, cacti, mushrooms, etc), but we encourage you to collect any rotting vegetation. For example, we've collected nematodes from two-day old tomatoes left in the soil and from two-week old apples next to the tree.



This kit includes:

- 25 petri plates with media and non-hazardous *E. coli* bacteria (worm food) - plates should be stored at cooler temperatures as much as possible before use (can be refrigerated but not frozen), and should be good for up to a week if not opened. The plates are sent to you parafilm together in stacks of two. Simply unwrap a stack when you need a plate.
- Envelope of parafilm, gloves, permanent marker and plastic bags for sample collection

How to collect:

1. Read through these directions entirely and email us with any questions.
2. Collect rotting material by turning the sample bag inside out and using it as a glove to pick up the item.
 - You should collect 3-4 days before you plan to ship the box back to us.
 - You can collect from anywhere. If you collect near your home, leave old fruit or vegetables outside for a few days, wait until the material is collapsed from rotting, and then collect it onto a petri dish after a few more days.
3. Note the location, date, time, material collected. Photographs and GPS coordinates of the location are great!
4. Label the top and bottom of the outside of the plate with the information from step 2 using the permanent marker.
5. Put several small pieces of rotting material on the surface of the agar plate (see picture above). Please wear the gloves we provided when handling rotting material. Cover the plate with the lid. Don't worry if it doesn't close all the way.
6. Keep the plate for approximately 24 hours away from direct sunlight. If outside, keep the plate away from scavenging animals. The nematodes will crawl off the rotting material onto the bacterial lawn.
7. After one day, remove and dispose of the rotten material from the surface of the agar plate.
8. Seal the plate with parafilm (provided in the envelope) by stretching and overlapping on the edge of the lid and bottom plate. The lid and plate should be sealed together by the parafilm.
9. Pack plates in the box shipped to you. Pack them in layers with bubble wrap or newspaper between each layer of plates.
 - Please use the same box packaged exactly as received to prevent breakage, seal the box with packing tape, and then place the postage and shipping label on the top of the box. The old shipping label must be covered or removed.
 - Note that there is no need to parafilm the plates together in stacks of two. One piece of parafilm per plate is sufficient.
10. Drop off the box at a shipping location. Please avoid leaving the plates in extreme heat or cold. Plates need to stay at 60-75°F for the nematodes to survive.

If you have any questions, please email erik.andersen@northwestern.edu

Thank you very much for advancing biomedical science!

Thank you for collecting worms!

Plate	Date	Time	Location	Material collected
1				
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