

## TIP OF THE MONTH

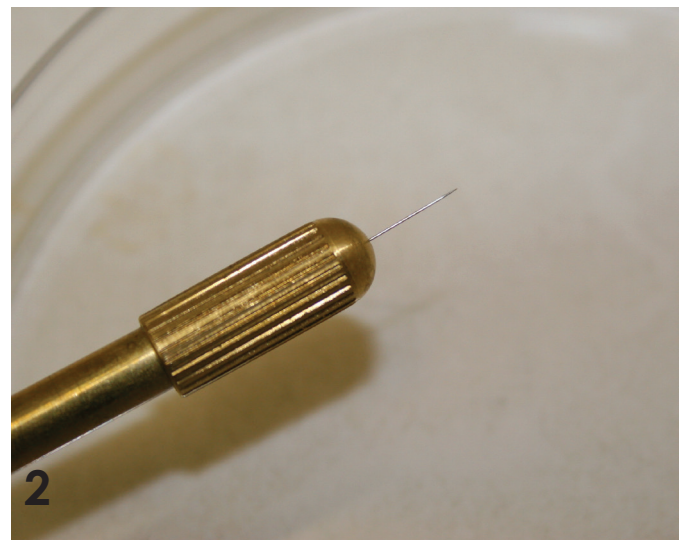
### Another Easy Transfer Tool for Fungi

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Diagnosticians often need a fine implement to pluck fruiting bodies off of plant tissue or out of cultures. Dissecting needles can be frustrating because too often the tip is not fine enough for the delicate task at hand. Our lab uses fine insect pins mounted in a loop handle for this job.

Insect pins (typically used for mounting insects) can be purchased in a variety of sizes and types. For this purpose we use minuten pins that are 0.2 mm in diameter and 12 mm long. These pins do not have heads; one end has a fine point while the other is blunt. The pins are stainless steel and can be flamed when the work requires a sterile instrument. A box of 500 pins (figure 1) can be purchased for less than \$13 from companies that sell entomology collecting supplies (ex. BioQuip).

The loop handle must be able to tightly grip the small diameter pin (figure 2); otherwise there are no particular requirements for the handle. You likely already have a handle in the lab that you use for streaking bacteria. I recommend that you have one dedicated to holding the minute pin rather than trying to switch back and forth with your bacterial loop. 🍃



The “**Guidance to States for 2013 *Phytophthora ramorum* Sample Processing and Routing**” document is now available. Be sure to refer to this document for guidance on handling suspect *P. ramorum* samples. These instructions were emailed to all our members that are part of the regional listservs and are also available on the NPDN Diagnostics webpage under announcements (username and password required). If you have any questions regarding handling of these samples, please contact Karen Snover-Cliff at [kls13@cornell.edu](mailto:kls13@cornell.edu) for NPDN related questions or Stacy Scott ([stacy.e.scott@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:stacy.e.scott@aphis.usda.gov), phone: 970-494-7577 ) and/or Joel Floyd ([joel.p.floyd@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:joel.p.floyd@aphis.usda.gov), phone: 301-851-2115 ).

