

Insects on Your Marsh?

Sweep Netting: A strong defense against insect pests.



Use sweep netting to collect a sample of insects from your marsh. After you use your sweep net, count the collected insects. Do you have too

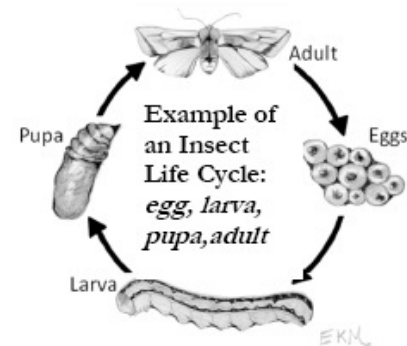
INSECTS: HELPFUL OR HARMFUL? BOTH! There are lots of insects on your marsh. *Some* of them can damage your plants horribly – but not all of them! You need other insects to keep your plants healthy and productive. You are familiar with some beneficial insects, such as the honey bee and bumble bee. There are more. They include certain wasps, butterflies, and even moths.

















Your aim is to prevent the insect pests from getting out of control while keeping the helpful insects healthy. When treating pests, you have to be choosy. Your first choice comes when you ask yourself: Do I need to do anything? ***Sweep netting*** can help you decide.

WHAT IS SWEEP NETTING? Sweep netting is a way of collecting insects so you can count them. You can also note each individual's life cycle stage. This can help you manage a problem.

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM? After you count your insects, you can compare the numbers of pests to suggested limits. These limits are called ***action thresholds*** because they help you decide when to take action. The action threshold is the suggested limit for each pest. It tells you when to take action against a pest.

**Table 1:
Action Thresholds and Life Cycle Stages
for Some Insects on a Cranberry Marsh**



Name	Action Threshold	Egg	Larva	Pupa	Adult
gypsy moth	4.5	 small eggs in a mass	 prickly, striped, black, very hairy	 body has rings of shiny copper and black color	 light to dark gray with black line and markings
black-headed fireworm	1-2	 yellowish, small, round	 shiny black head, white-cream body, about the size of a cranberry leaf	 cream colored, hints of orange	 brown markings on wings
brown spanworm	18	 green, oblong eggs in a cluster	 loops or inches its way along slender, hairless, brown	 dark, brownish red, shaped like the gypsy moth pupa, but its coloring is all brown/red looks like false armyworm pupa	 reddish-brown with streaks through its fan-shaped wings
false army-worm	4.5	 small, dark eggs in a mass	 lime to dark green with stripes, no hairs, with 5 pairs of legs, 4 together and the 5th harder to see	 looks like brown spanworm pupa	 orangey-yellow wings, orange abdomen, dark thorax