

Insects on Your Bog?

Sweep Netting: A strong defense against insect pests.



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

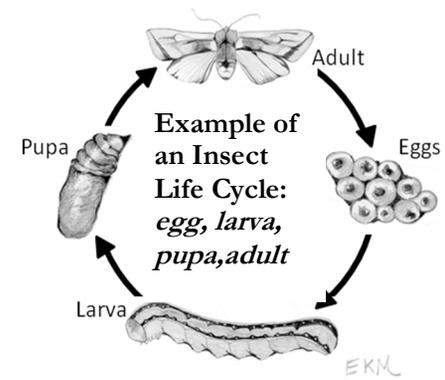
INSECTS: HELPFUL OR HARMFUL? BOTH! There are lots of insects on your bog. *Some* of them can damage your plants horribly—but not all of them! You need other insects to keep your plants healthy and productive. You are familiar with some beneficial insects, such as the honey bee and bumble bee. There are 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 it's time to take action against a pest.

**Table 1:
Action Thresholds and Life Cycle Stages for
Some Insect Pests on a Cranberry Bog**



| 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 |