

Sweep netting

Sweep netting is used to survey for invertebrates in long grass. It is useful for finding both mobile and stationary invertebrates.

Equipment

- A sweep net
- Bug pots or small plastic containers
- Pen and pencil to record your findings
- A magnifying glass can be useful

Method

- Move your net in sweeping motions through the long grass.
- Next, close the top of your net to stop anything escaping or flying away.
- Carefully open the net and have a look at what insects you've caught before letting them go. You might want to use your bug pots if you want a better look.

Considerations

- If you are surveying in several areas, make sure to use the same number of sweeps for each site. This means that your sweep net surveys are consistent.
- Try and sweep at the same height in the grass at each site.
- Remember that some flying insects can escape easily.
- It's important to be careful if you catch any butterflies or day-flying moths as their wings are very delicate.
- Be careful removing any insects like bees from your net as they can sting.

