



Hoverfly Lagoons

Instructions

1. Cut the top off the bottle and recycle.



2. Pierce holes with a pen an inch below the brim to allow water flow.
3. Fill bottle with grass or leaf litter, compress content and fill up to the pierced holes, weigh on scales.
4. Insert sticks, reaching bottom to top.
5. Add water to level of drainage holes.
6. Add a layer of leaf litter on top.
7. Stand lagoon in tray filled with dry leaf litter for larvae to pupate in.
8. Search once a month, replace bottle and recycle, and [submit findings on online form](#) (see overleaf)

You will need:

A 2, 4 or 6-pint plastic milk bottle*

Scissors

A pen for piercing holes

A tray with drainage holes

A basin

A jar or insect tube

Some sticks

A bag of leaf litter

Lagoon content: up to ~300g grass cuttings or leaf litter



*You can use any container of similar size
(see overleaf)



Methods video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=PeZSUWy71D4&t=19s

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2021: investigating alternatives for single-use plastic

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What's the best Lagoon container?

We want to move away from using single-use plastic. Can you help us determine a more environmentally friendly solution?

To investigate this, we're asking you to create minimum **2 Lagoons**. To compare, fill your second container with the **same volume** of the **same substrate**.

Choose from:

Option 1: 2-pint + leaf litter OR grass cuttings

- 1 x 2-pint plastic milk bottle container
- 1 x similar-sized ~1000ml container*



Option 2: 4-pint + leaf litter OR grass cuttings

- 1 x 4-pint plastic milk bottle container
- 1 x similar-sized ~1700ml container*



Option 3: 6-pint + leaf litter OR grass cuttings

- 1 x 6-pint plastic milk bottle container
- 1 x similar-sized ~2000ml container*



See www.hoverflylagoons.co.uk/the-lagoon-container for some container ideas!

*You can use any waterproof container of similar size: 6-pint: 15cm height, 18cm width, 10cm; 4-pint: 15cm height, 12cm width, 10cm; 2-pint: 15cm height, 7cm width, 7cm



Buzz Club Webpage: www.thebuzzclub.uk/hoverfly-lagoons
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Instructions: monthly surveys

1. Carefully empty entire content into basin to locate and count larvae.
2. Wash and recycle container (if single-use plastic) and prepare a new one.

Email photos to us at hoverflylagoons@gmail.com and tweet us @HoverflyLagoons



Larvae



Pupae

3. Return everything into new empty milk bottle container.
4. Search tray and leaf litter for pupae.
5. Carefully transfer pupae only into jam jars with pierced lid/air holes and monitor daily for adults.
6. Return lagoon to seed tray and to a shaded location.
7. Submit findings on our simple online form <https://tinyurl.com/hover2017>.



Adult Tiger hoverfly



Website and YouTube methods videos: www.thebuzzclub.uk/hoverfly-lagoons
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