

🌻 School Yard Survey

Objectives: To survey the school yard for signs of insect damage and to **determine the types** of insects that caused the damage.

Time: 30 minutes.

Materials: Hand lens, bag for collecting.

Using the guide to insect mouthparts above, divide your JMG'ers into small work groups and ask each group to survey part of the school yard for signs of insect damage. The gardeners will be looking mainly for signs of chewing or piercing/sucking damage, since siphoning and sponging mouthparts do not damage plant tissues directly. Remind them of the types of damage that insects with these mouthparts cause:

Chewing: Holes, or “bites” from the edges of leaves.

Piercing/sucking: Small brown dots scattered over the surface of the leaf. Leaves may look dull or “sandpapery” from loss of sap.

Although not essential, a hand lens can help the children look closely at leaf surfaces. It's also an important tool for scientists, and may help remind the gardeners that they are conducting a scientific survey. After the survey, ask each group to present its findings to the others. Make a group chart on the types of insect damage they found, what types of mouthparts would have caused the damage, and any guesses as to the type of insect that caused it.

