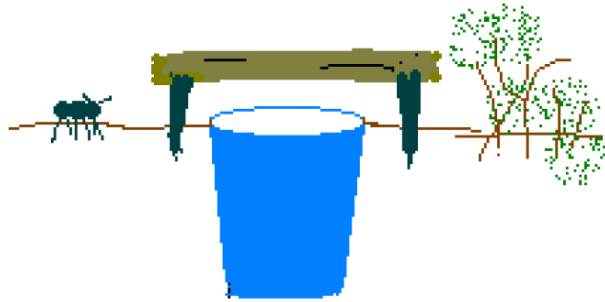




Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program

Science, Education, and Stewardship



Try putting several pitfall traps on your school grounds. Look for differing habitats: an open field, a shady spot, & even mixed in with the landscaping.

Build your Own Pitfall Trap

- ◆ 2 plastic cups (poke a hole in the bottom one to drain H₂O)
- ◆ 6x6 inch plywood squares (1/4" thick works great)
- ◆ 4 nails or screws = 1 for each corner to keep big beasties OUT
- ◆ dig a hole deep enough to fit the entire cup, you want the lip of the cup level with the ground surface to allow arthropods to fall right in!
- ◆ leave open for 48 hours, collect and discover!
- ◆ don't forget to close your trap or remove it
- ◆ identify your creepy crawlies with the "Arthropods of the Bosque" key

Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program

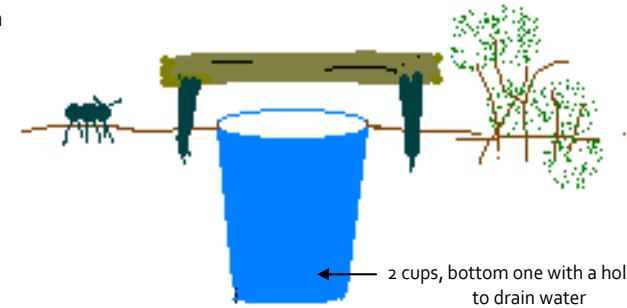
Science, Education & Stewardship

Pitfall Trapping = Surface Active Arthropod Trapping

What is an Arthropod??? An invertebrate with an exoskeleton (that molts), a segmented body and jointed attachments called appendages.

BEMP does pitfall trapping 3 times a year to determine the abundance and diversity of arthropods in the bosque.

1. the end of September
mid-June
2. the beginning of May
3. the end of June



2 cups, bottom one with a hole in it to drain water

Important Pitfall Tips to Remember...

1. Traps are left open (with the lid removed) for 48 hours.
2. Each trap should be set with the dirt/sand/soil patted right up to the edge of the cup, so ANY critter (no matter how big or small) has the same chance of falling in.
3. Traps are collected in labeled ziploc bags. Each bag should have the following information:
 - a) Site
 - b) Date
 - c) Trap Number
4. Don't forget to fill out your data sheet and list any reptiles or amphibians that make their way into the trap!

For more information about BEMP pitfall trapping and/or data collected along the middle Rio Grande valley, please visit: <http://www.bosqueschool.org/bemp.aspx>.

