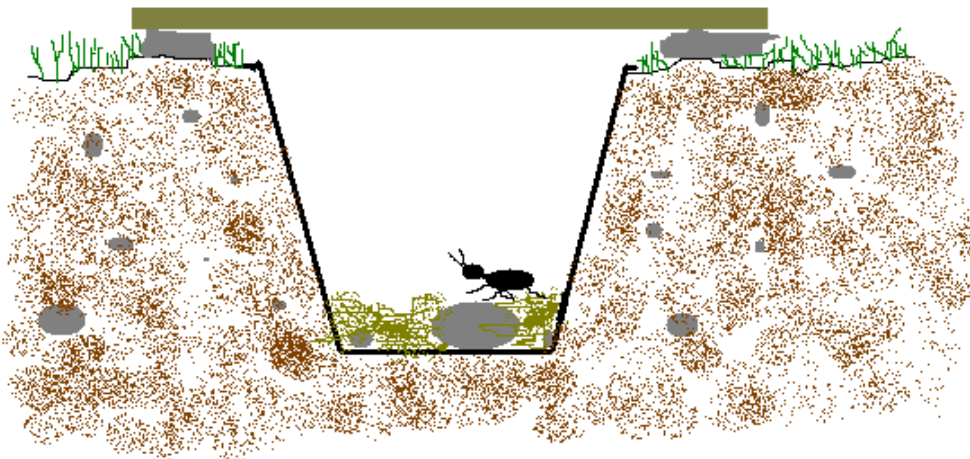


Catch Mini-Beasts in your Garden with Pitfall Traps

- Dig a hole in the soil in your garden.
- Take a large empty yoghurt or cream carton or a disposable plastic drinking cup and place it in the hole so that its rim is level with the soil surface.
- Insects and other mini-beasts walking over the soil will fall into the pitfall trap.
- Place some small stones and a little dry grass or leaves in the bottom of the trap for them to hide in but don't put in too much or they will be able to climb out.
- Cover the trap with a piece of wood or tile, raised a little above the ground using a couple of stones so that the mini-beasts can crawl underneath.



- Set up the trap in the morning and check it that evening or set it in the evening and check it the next morning.
- After you have recorded the mini-beasts in the trap, release them back into the garden.
- Set up several traps around the garden to increase the chance of catching some interesting mini-beasts.

Three of the common Mini-Beasts that you might catch in your Pitfall Traps



Ground Beetle

Ground beetles eat other insects
This is the Black Clock Beetle
It sometimes has red legs
There are 350 different ground beetles in UK

Rove Beetle

Rove beetles have short wing cases
This is the Devil's Coach Horse
It is almost 3 cm long
Some rove beetles are only 2mm long
There are over 1100 different rove beetles in UK



The Devil's Coach Horse will raise its abdomen and open its jaws as a threat

Wolf Spider

Wolf Spiders don't build webs to catch prey
They hunt prey on the ground
They have excellent eyesight using 8 eyes
Some build burrows in the soil
Females carry their eggs in a silk bag attached to the end of their abdomen

