



## DIY Activity - Sticky Pest Traps

### INTRODUCTION



- Sticky traps are used as a non chemical pest monitoring tool and pest control tool in your greenhouse and your garden. They are used to catch and immobilize pests such as aphids, whiteflies and thrips.
  - Yellow and blue colors are used. Pests such as Aphids and Whitefly are attracted to yellow, and Thrips are attracted to blue
  - This DIY Activity will take you through the steps to be able to make your own sticky traps. This is a great activity for students and uses readily available non toxic products.
  - Food Ladders Fact Sheets 5.001 Organic and Biological Pest Control, and 5.112 Pest Control in the Greenhouse give detailed information on pest control for your fruit and vegetable crops.
- Sticky pest traps of both colors are placed in various locations in your greenhouse and garden close to the plants, but without touching the plants. Place them where they are accessible so they are easy to check each day.



**MATERIALS AND TOOLS REQUIRED**

<p><b>Old Plastic Container</b></p>  <p>This will need to be cut to a size of 70mm - 100mm x 120mm - 150mm. A good plastic to use is ice cream containers. Up to 6 sticky traps can be made from a 2lt ice cream container</p>	<p><b>Scissors or Knife</b></p>  <p>To cut the plastic to the required size.</p>	<p><b>Hole Punch</b></p>  <p>To make a hole at the top and bottom of the plastic card.</p>
<p><b>Petroleum Jelly 100%</b></p>  <p>You will need approximately one spoonful of petroleum jelly for each pest strip you are making</p>	<p><b>Yellow &amp; Blue Paint</b></p>  <p>High gloss spray paint will give you the best results, but other bright yellow and bright blue paints will also work.</p>	<p><b>Sandpaper</b></p>  <p>A small piece of sandpaper is used to rough up the surface of the plastic before painting. Use 120 to 400 grit paper</p>
<p><b>Dishwashing Liquid</b></p>  <p>A few drops are required for each spoonful of petroleum jelly.</p>	<p><b>Mixing Bowl</b></p>  <p>To mix the ingredients together</p>	<p><b>Spatula</b></p>  <p>To apply the mixed ingredient to the painted plastic cards</p>
<p><b>Marker &amp; Ruler</b></p>  <p>For measuring and marking the section to be cut out of the plastic</p>	<p><b>String / Bamboo Stakes</b></p>  <p>For placing the finished Sticky Pest Traps in the greenhouse</p>	<p><b>PPE</b></p>  <p>Gloves and Dust Mask for use when spray painting the cut-out plastic</p>



## MAKING YOUR STICKY PEST TRAP

Once you have all the materials and equipment for the project, you are ready to get started. Ensure students are supervised when using knives, scissors, and spray paints, and that spray paints are used in a well ventilated outdoor area.

Depending on the age of the students, teachers may want to prepare some steps prior to the student activity. It is best to do this project over 2 sessions, so you have plenty of time to allow the paint to dry before applying the petroleum jelly mixture.

### Stage 1 – Preparing the plastic card



Measure and mark a rectangle 100mm x 150mm on the plastic lid or sides/bottom of the container that you are using.

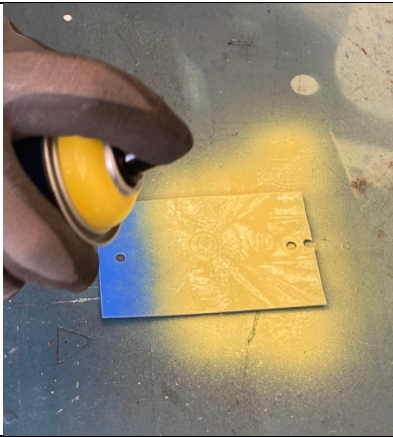
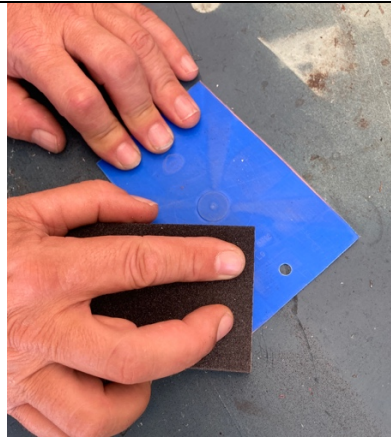
Cut out the plastic as marked using either scissors or a retractable knife. It is a good idea for students to be wearing gloves and to be supervised by a teacher / adult when undertaking this step.



Using the hole punch, make a hole at the top and bottom of the plastic card as shown in the picture. These holes are for securing the pest trap when putting it in the garden / greenhouse.



Rub both sides of the plastic card with sandpaper to make the surface rough. This is to help the paint stick to the plastic surface.

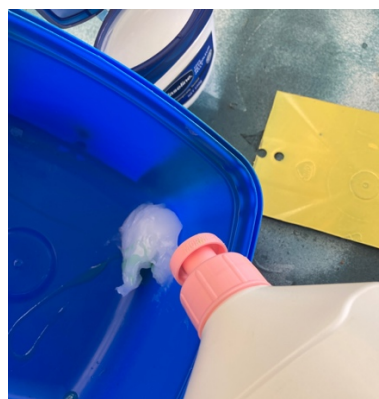


Paint both sides of the plastic card with either the yellow or blue paint. Gloss exterior spray paint will work best for this, but other gloss exterior paints will also work. Allow about 15 minutes before you turn it over to do the other side, and 24 hours before you commence Stage 2. Make sure students wear gloves and a face mask when using spray paints.

## Stage 2 Making the sticky trap

To make the petroleum jelly mixture, place 1 spoonful of petroleum jelly and 3 drops of dishwash liquid into a mixing bowl. This is enough for one sticky trap, so if you are doing multiple sticky traps, multiply the above amount by the number of cards that are being made.

Mix the ingredients well with the spatula





Using the spatula, apply the petroleum jelly mixture in a thin layer to both sides of the plastic card. Make sure the whole card is covered. This can be a bit of a messy process, so it can be a good idea to wear gloves. The completed sticky pest traps can be stored in a zip lock bag until you are ready to use them.

The completed sticky pest traps can now be placed amongst the plants in your greenhouse or outdoor garden. They can be hung with string or can be attached to a bamboo stake. Place them as close to the plants as you can to get the best results.



## MONITORING FOR PESTS

Once your sticky pest traps are set up in the greenhouse or in your garden, they will start attracting insects. Each day they can be checked to see what pests and other insects have stuck to the trap. Over time the sticky pest trap will become quite thick with bugs. To continue using the traps, wipe off the petroleum jelly and insects with a rag or paper towel, and repeat stage 2 of the steps for making the traps. Have a look at Food Ladders Fact Sheet 5.112 Pest Control in the Greenhouse for how to monitor for pests, and how best to identify the insects you are trapping. Food Ladders fact sheet 5.001 Organic and Biological Pest Control also has lots of useful information for controlling insect pests in the garden. Another related fun activity for students is to make a Bait Bottle Pest Trap. An activity sheet for this can also be found on Food Ladders Education Platform.





## OTHER RESOURCES RELATED TO THIS FACT SHEET

These resources can be located on the Food Ladder Education Platform: <https://edu.foodladder.org>

5.001 Organic and Biological Pest Control

5.112 Pest Control in the Greenhouse

5.007 Activity: DIY Bait Bottle Pest Trap

## SOURCES

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