



Bugs in the Bushes

Hedges and bushes are full of all sorts of bugs and beetles. See how many you can find!

Spread a white sheet below your chosen bush or hedge, then give the branches a good shake. You'll be amazed how many tiny creatures fall onto it. Catch them for a closer look using a pooter – you can download instructions for making one - or you could flick them carefully into a bug pot with a soft paintbrush. Catching them in your fingers isn't a good idea – most of them are easily injured, and some may sting or bite.

You might like to experiment to see whether different kinds live high up and low down – shake a low branch first, then release your catch and try an overhanging high branch. Maybe different kinds of bush have different beasts – try several sorts.

To identify your catch, you could start with our Bugs on Bushes spotter sheet. For more detailed identification, visit <https://www.buglife.org.uk/bugs/identify-a-bug> or get a copy of the Field Studies Council's *Bugs on Bushes name trail* or *Garden Bugs and Beasties*, available from Shropshire Wildlife Trust's shop at The Cut.

Always handle the minibeasts gently, and return them home once you've had a good look at them.

