



Hoverfly Lagoons  
**2026!**

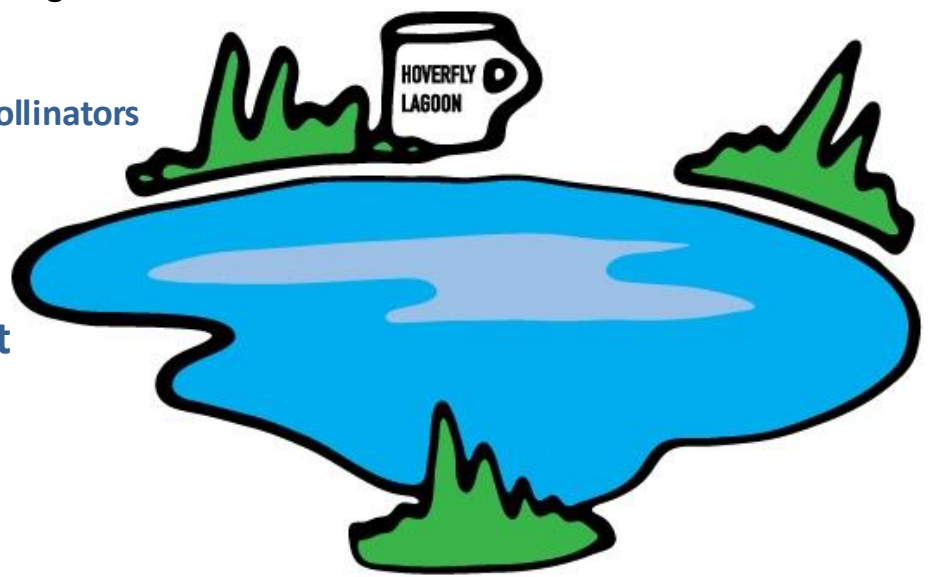
# Ponds and Hoverfly Lagoons

## Introduction

We're interested to know how ponds in gardens affect recruitment of hoverflies to Hoverfly Lagoons.

Do **ponds** attract pollinators like hoverflies?

We need gardens with and without ponds to test this theory!



## Method

We're asking volunteers to follow our standard methods for creating two, 2 or 4-pint Lagoons in their garden, and surveying the content monthly.

If you have a pond, place your Lagoon within 2 to 3 metres of the water body, ideally in a shaded spot. Place your 2nd duplicate Lagoon (the same size) as far away from the pond as possible, but still in your garden.

Gardens without a pond, place two duplicate Lagoons in your garden spaced 4+ metres apart. If a water body is nearby, for example, you know your neighbour has a pond, we will ask you to estimate the distance.



Webpage: [www.thebuzzclub.uk/hoverfly-lagoons](http://www.thebuzzclub.uk/hoverfly-lagoons)  
Email: [BuzzClub@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:BuzzClub@sussex.ac.uk)  
Twitter: [@HoverflyLagoons](https://twitter.com/HoverflyLagoons)





# Make a Hoverfly Lagoon

## You will need:

- A 2 or 4-pint plastic milk bottle\*
- Scissors
- A pen for piercing overflow holes
- A tray with drainage holes
- A basin
- A jar or insect tube
- Some sticks
- A bag of leaf litter
- Lagoon content: up to ~300g grass cuttings topped with leaf litter

## Instructions

1. Cut the top off the bottle and recycle.



2. Pierce holes with a pen an inch below the brim to allow water flow.
3. Fill bottle with grass or leaf litter, compress content and fill up to the pierced holes, weigh on scales.
4. Insert sticks, reaching bottom to top.
5. Add water to level of water flow holes.
6. Add a layer of leaf litter on top.
7. Stand lagoon in tray filled with dry leaf litter for larvae to pupate in.
8. Search once a month, replace bottle and recycle, and **submit findings on online form** (see overleaf)



**\*You can use any container of similar size**



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## Monthly surveys

1. Carefully empty entire content into basin to locate and count larvae.
2. Wash and recycle container (if single-use plastic) and prepare a new one.
3. Return everything into a new empty milk bottle container.

Email photos to us at [BuzzClub@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:BuzzClub@sussex.ac.uk) and tweet us [@HoverflyLagoons](https://twitter.com/HoverflyLagoons)



Larvae



Pupae

4. Search tray and leaf litter, locate and count pupae.
5. Carefully transfer pupae with some tissue paper into a jar with air holes, store in cool, shaded spot, monitor daily for adults.
6. Return lagoon to seed tray and to a shaded location in garden.
7. Photograph any adults and release!
8. **Submit findings on our simple online form \*See Webpage\***



Adult Tiger hoverfly



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