

# Caterpillars Count!



## Citizen Science in Action

### WHAT

#### Learn to identify arthropods

Use our [ID guide](#) and [photo quiz](#) to learn some of the most common arthropod orders found on trees and shrubs.

#### Conduct arthropod surveys

Count the different types of arthropods on the leaves of trees and shrubs. Submit data using free *Caterpillars Count!* mobile apps.



#### Explore data

Which tree species have more bugs? What times of year are they most abundant? In which regions?

[Data visualization tools](#) on our website allow you to instantly explore and answer these questions!

#### Lesson plans

We have [learning activities](#) and lesson plans for K-12 and environmental educators linked on our website!

### WHY

#### Arthropods matter!

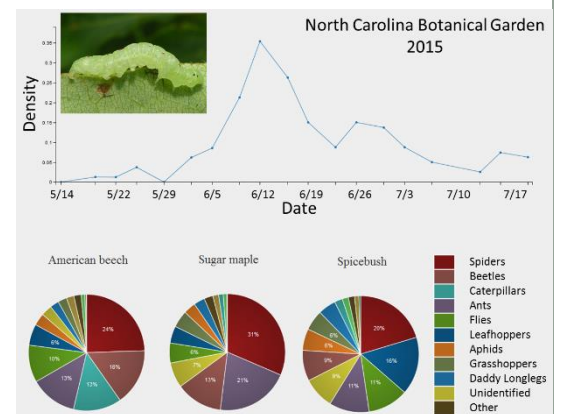
Arthropods are an important food source for birds and other wildlife, and they have economic and environmental impacts on our forests and crops.

#### Help scientists

Scientists can use your observations to better understand how climate change and land use change impact the plants and animals around us.

#### Education

We engage educators, students and others to learn more about the world around us.



Frequently asked questions answered at:

**CaterpillarsCount.unc.edu/faq**

# Want to start a new Caterpillars Count! site?

## Consider these questions:

- ① Will your site have at least 10 (ideally  $\geq 30$ ) foliage survey locations?  
YES  
NO
- ② Will surveys be carried out at least 6 times over the late spring and summer?  
YES  
NO
- ③ Is there an existing pool of potential participants who could share the work of conducting these surveys? (or a single individual willing to dedicate the time required?)  
YES  
NO

Characterizing the seasonal phenology of caterpillars requires conducting a large number of surveys per season.

If you can't commit to the level of effort necessary, then we encourage you to mention us to local nature centers or environmental education centers that might be able to coordinate such efforts.

**Thank you!**

## Great! Here are the next steps!

- ④ Register for an account through the mobile app (available from iTunes & Google Play), or through the [website](#) (click Sign In in the upper right).
- ⑤ Create a new site by clicking on My Account > Create New Site, and provide the following info:
  - \* Site name
  - \* Short description (<25 words)
  - \* Site location
  - \* Number of survey locations you expect to support (should be a multiple of 5)
  - \* Site password (this will be given out by you to participants for them to submit surveys for your site)
- ⑥ Choose survey branches on woody vegetation at your site. Branches should have >50 leaves, and leaves should be >2 inches (5 cm) long. See the [Host a Survey Site](#) page for details.
- ⑦ Enter plant species names for survey branches through the website's [Manage My Sites](#) page. Find your site in the Sites table, and select Edit Survey Plants.
- ⑧ Print out survey codes from the website's [Manage My Sites](#) page, select "Print tags", laminate, and hang from survey branches.



**Your site is ready to be surveyed!**

**More info at: [CaterpillarsCount.unc.edu](http://CaterpillarsCount.unc.edu)**