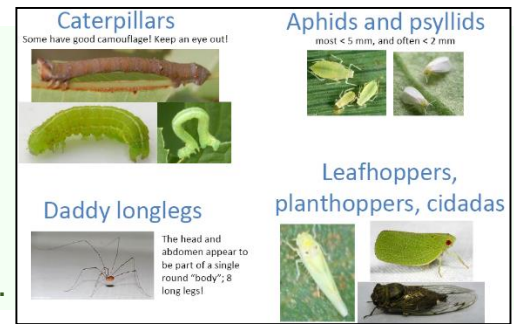


# Tips for administering a **Caterpillars Count!** site

## Training participants

### Arthropod identification

- Encourage participants to become familiar with the common arthropod orders before conducting surveys.
- Have them take the [Arthropod Photo ID Quiz](#) on our website until they can get at least 9/10 correct consistently.
- Print [2-sided ID guides](#) for participants to bring out in the field.



### Estimating arthropod length

- Make sure that participants are comfortable estimating lengths *in millimeters*.
- Have them familiarize themselves with basic reference points, like the length of their pinky fingernail, length to first or second knuckle, etc.



### Using the app

- Participants should use the mobile app to submit data if possible.
- If your site has limited cell service or if participants will be using devices without cell service, they should be sure to use the **Add New Site** feature to add your site to the app using the site password you provide them. This needs to be done under either a wifi or cell connection, so prior to coming out to the site.
  - For sites without cell service, surveys will be stored and can be submitted later when the user has an internet connection.See the [App User Manual](#) for details.
- Encourage participants to opt in to (1) using cellular data to submit surveys if applicable, and (2) submitting their arthropod observations to iNaturalist.org. Both of these options are on the Setting page reached by tapping the gear in the top right.
- If participants are not able to use the app, make sure it is clear who (the individual participants, or you, the site administrator) will be entering data from the datasheets into the [website](#).

Go back ⚙

Temp.  Time 10:04 AM Date Nov 6, 2016

**Site Information** ?

Scan QR Code

Site  
Please select a site

Survey Type  
Please select a survey type

Circle  
Please select a circle

Survey  
Please select a survey

Notes



# Tips for administering a **Caterpillars Count!** site

## Training participants, continued

### Tips for Beat Sheet Surveys

- Whack the branch strongly enough to knock off arthropods, but not so strongly that twigs and leaves are damaged.
- The branch should be whacked exactly **10 times**.
- Hold the beat sheet in one place during all 10 whacks.
- Spend at least a minute looking at your beat sheet—bugs that are small, or pale, or look like debris may not be obvious at first glance, especially if you are in poor light.
- Be aware that some insects may be knocked into your beat sheet very briefly but will then fly away. Do your best to estimate their type and length.



### Tips for Visual Surveys

- Be sure to check both the **upper and lower sides** of every leaf in your survey carefully.
- Don't forget that the survey also includes the associated **twigs and petioles**, so scan those as well.
- Many arthropods are cryptically colored and can look just like the leaf or twig they are on—you will have to be vigilant!
- When doing a survey, **disturb the branch as little as possible**. If you move it too much, arthropods may fall off or fly away from the leaves you are hoping to survey.



### General Tips

- Arthropod length is from the **head to the abdomen**—we don't count the length of legs or antennae.
- We only care about arthropods **2 mm long or longer**. So don't spend time sweating the small stuff!
- It's ok to call something '**UNIDENTIFIED**'! Better to record it as unidentified than to not record it at all!
- Taking photos of the arthropods you find within the app is optional, but **we strongly encourage photos of caterpillars!**

