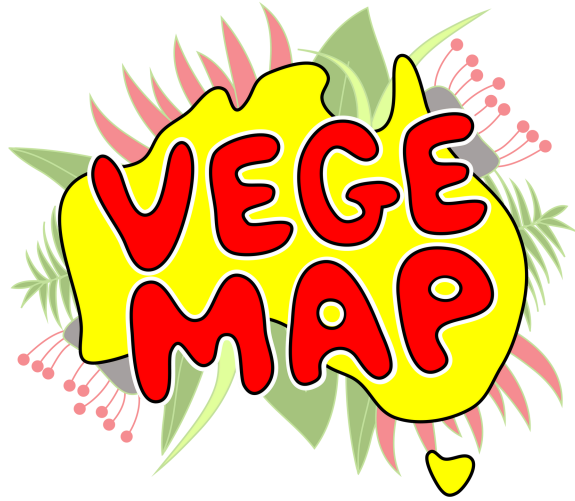
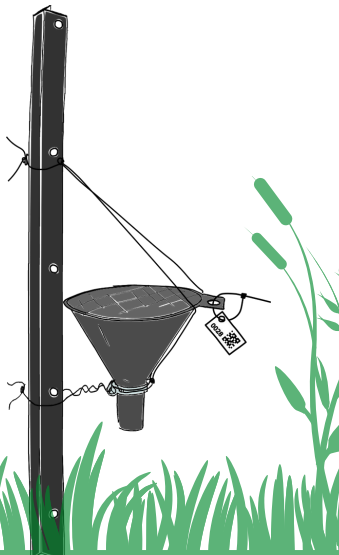


Install a Pollen Trap



Set up instructions

How and where to set up your pollen trap.
Find [Build a Pollen Trap](#) on our site if you don't have one yet!

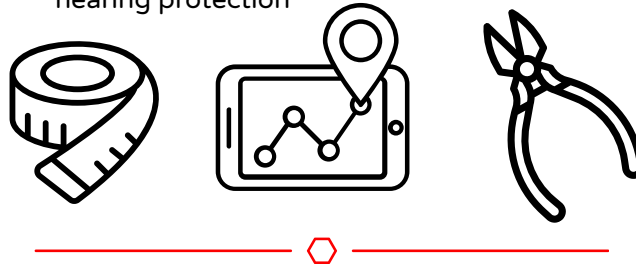


Let's collect some pollen!

Before you begin

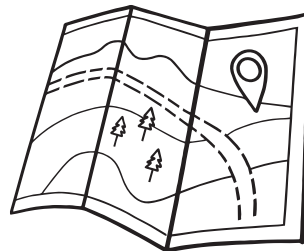
You'll need some additional equipment:

- ~2 m of easily bent wire, 1.25 mm galvanised works well.
- measuring tape
- GPS-enabled device (mobile phone is fine)
- wire cutter
- pliers
- camera (mobile phone is fine)
- 1.3–2.0 m star picket (if your site doesn't have something to affix the trap to at ~50 cm high)
- post driver (if you're bringing a star picket)
- flagging tape (optional)
- safety gear: especially if you're installing a star picket, consider steel cap footwear, gloves, and hearing protection



Choosing a site for your pollen trap:

- Get explicit consent from the land holder before setting up trap.
- Consider accessibility. You (or someone) will need to find the trap again a year later.
- Try to put the trap in a relatively open spot. Eg, if it is directly below a tree, it might collect a disproportionate amount of that tree's pollen.



Step 1: Setting up

Installation

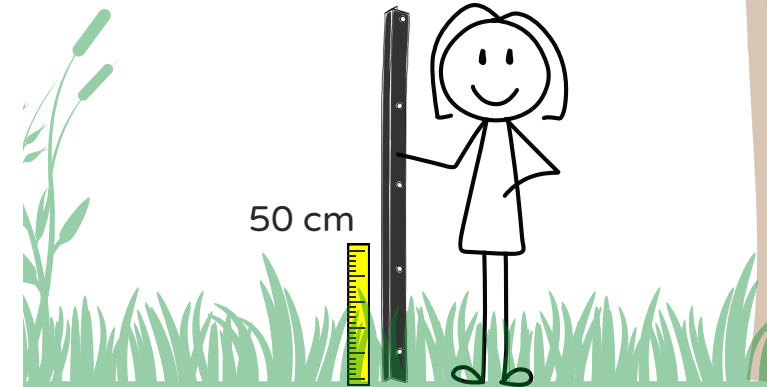
- Drive the picket (if you're using one) into the earth until it's stable, at least 50 cm deep.
- Measure 50 cm off the ground and mark or take note—the top of the trap should be there.
- Decide whether to use caution sign. Attach it if people will inevitably come across the trap, or if in a National Park where visitors tend to be respectful of equipment. In some cases, however, the bright white sign could attract vandals to an otherwise inconspicuous picket.

Crucial data:

site name: _____

lat, long: _____

elevation: _____ date: _____

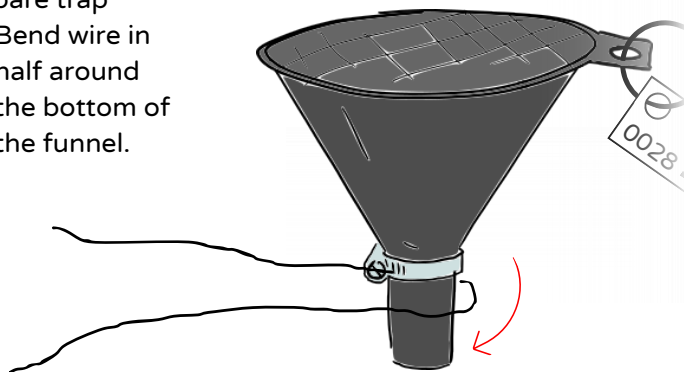


Hint: Try to imagine events that could interfere with the trap, and mitigate those as best you can. Eg, placement on the side of the fence without cattle will make it less likely the trap gets used as a backscratcher.

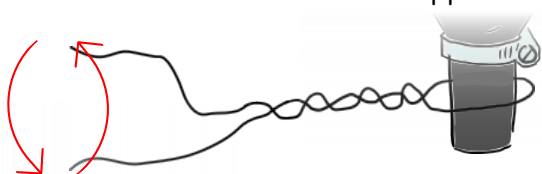
Step 2: Trap preparation

Prepare trap

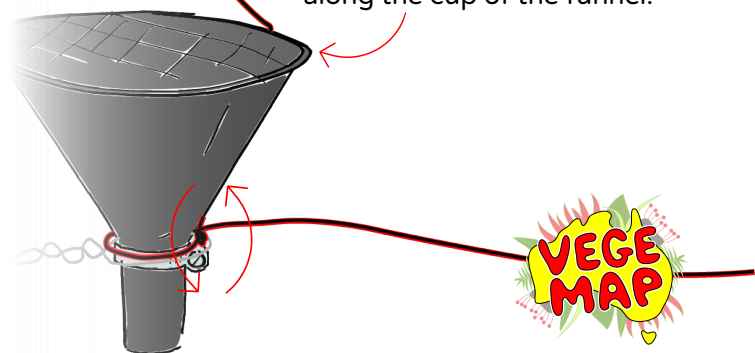
- Bend wire in half around the bottom of the funnel.



- Twist wire ends for ~5 cm, so the twisted part sticks out as far as the funnel's tab. The loose ends will be attached to the support.



- Take a second piece of wire about 1 m long and put it over the first piece and twist it once.
 - Make it so the ends go the opposite direction of the first wire, then bend them up along the cup of the funnel.

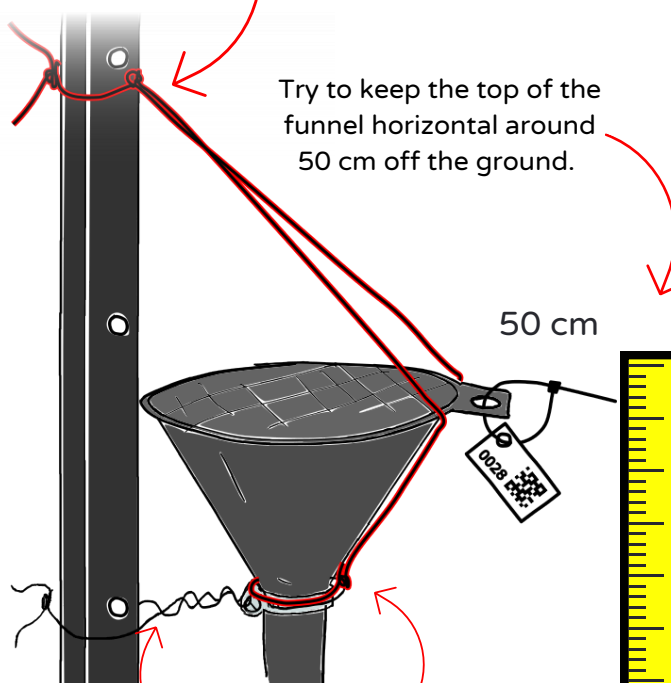


Step 3: Installation

Attach the upper wires **after** the lower ones. Pull them tight so its difficult to tip the trap sideways.

Hint: The goal is to keep the trap stable and upright, which may require thinking outside of the box or some trial and error. Animals seem to think breaking pollen traps is good fun.

Try to keep the top of the funnel horizontal around 50 cm off the ground.



Twist the wires around the support. Use it to keep the funnel roughly upright.

Consider attaching flagging to the trap and even along your route if 1) you might have difficulty returning and 2) you feel it is unlikely to be vandalised.

Step 4: Registration

Wrapping up:

- Take a pic! A photograph of your trap and the vegetation around it will help us understand the environment. We'd love a selfie too!
- Make sure geolocation is enabled for your camera or record your lat/long from a map app.
- Register your pollen trap at: epicaustralia.org.au/vegemap (QR code below).
- Mark your calendar for a year from now.
- In 11 months, VegeMap will send you instructions to retrieve your trap and get it to us.

Congratulations!

You're helping build a new database of Australian pollen!

Please also consider doing a **vegetation survey** around your trap, instructions at: epicaustralia.org.au/vegemap



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