

What happened to the holly leaf-miner?

INTRODUCTION

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1

THE FOOD WEB WEEKLY

THE HOLLY LEAF-MINER

Next time you walk past a holly tree look closely. You may find a small invader feasting inside!


The invaders are called holly leaf-miners. They eat by making tunnels inside the leaf.

Holly leaf-miner flies lay their eggs on holly leaves in June and July. After the eggs hatch out, the grubs eat the leaf from the inside from autumn to the following spring. In March the grub turns into a pupa. In May the adult fly crawls out of the leaf and flies away.


Not all grubs become flies. Some are eaten by birds. Other grubs are eaten by parasites. If you look at a leaf mine in the summer, you can work out what has happened to the grub that used to be inside.



Try to find some some holly leaves with mines. Count how many have holes.

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|  | No hole (leaf-miner still in leaf) | <input type="text"/> |
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|--|---|----------------------|
|  | Large hole (leaf-miner fly has emerged) | <input type="text"/> |
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|  | Tiny hole (leaf-miner eaten by a wasp) | <input type="text"/> |
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|  | Triangular flap (leaf-miner eaten by a bird) | <input type="text"/> |
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