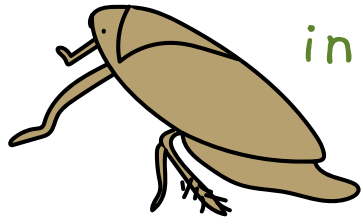


# Garden spittlebug hunt

## how to hunt for spittlebugs

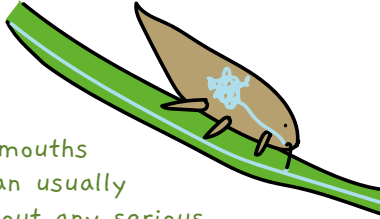
### in your garden



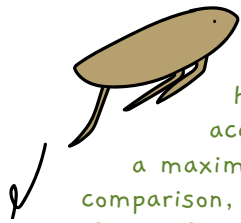
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## Fun facts about spittlebugs

Spittlebugs have mouths a bit like needles which they use to suck sap out of plants. Because their mouths are so small, plants can usually recover from this without any serious problems.

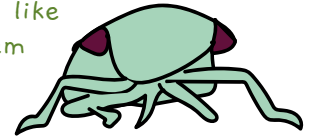


Spittlebugs make spittle by mixing up plant sap in their tummies and then blowing bubbles with it by squirting it out of their bums!



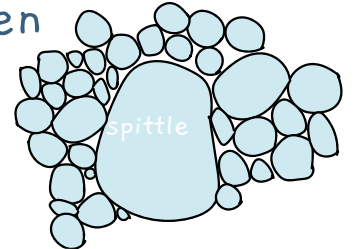
Adult spittlebugs are amazing jumpers. The Meadow Spittlebug holds the record for the fastest acceleration of any jump reaching a maximum g-force of up to 550! For comparison, astronauts normally experience a g-force of only around 3 during a rocket launch!

Spittlebugs have huge muscles in their heads to help them suck sap from their food plants. This makes their faces look bulgy, a bit like a tiny frog, giving them their other name - froghoppers.

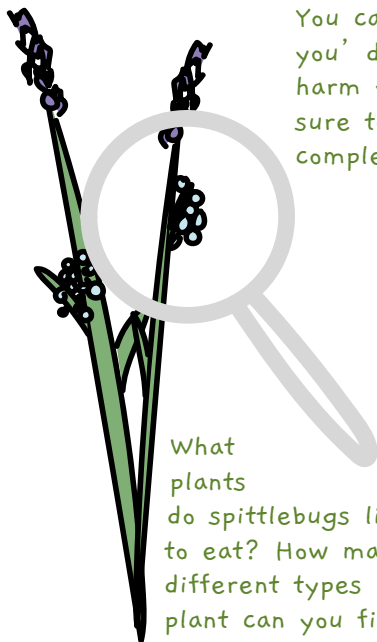


## What you can do in your garden

Hunt around your garden looking for blobs of spittle. Lavender, rosemary or rose plants would be a good place to start. Very gently part the bubbles with your finger or a small paintbrush to reveal the spittlebug sheltering inside (spittle is completely harmless to humans).



You can even let the spittlebug walk around on your finger for a few minutes if you'd like to take a good look (nymphs aren't able to jump yet). They can't harm you and their mouths are far too weak to penetrate your skin. Just be sure to put it gently back onto its plant when you've finished. The spittle is completely harmless, but it's always a good idea to wash your hands afterwards.



What plants do spittlebugs like to eat? How many different types of plant can you find spittle on?



You should start seeing spittle in your garden from early May through until late June.

See if you can tell which type of spittlebug you've found [a handy guide can be found here.](#)

We'd love to hear what you've found. You can let us [know by reporting your sightings here.](#)