

Neponset Beetle Ranching Nets

The Finished Product:



A net, installed on a Purple loosestrife plant.



Net, held side-wise. Top is at left. Bottom is at right (contains a drawstring).

A finished net is like a cylinder, made of no-see-um netting (a gauze-like material). There is a long seam that runs down the long side of the cylinder; another seam, that contains a drawstring, that runs along the bottom of the net; and an unfinished opening at the top of the net.

When in use by a Beetle Rancher, the drawstring at the bottom of the net gets pulled tight around the lip of a pot, and it gets knotted (or a cord-stopper is used). Note that this end of the net often slips into the pool water, for weeks at a time. For this reason, it's important to use strong thread that won't bleed color and that can tolerate both soaking *and* sunlight.

The top of the net is left open. The Beetle Rancher pulls this end up over the plant and the stakes, and closes it with a zip-tie, rubber band, or twist-tie.

Nets in Use:



Beetle Rancher holds the net so that the drawstring is on the bottom and the unfinished end is at the top. Then, she carefully slips the net over the stakes and plant.



At left, Beetle Rancher pulls the drawstring tight around the lip of the pot, and ties a knot (or uses a cord-stop). Then, at right, Beetle Rancher closes the top of the net, using a zip-tie.



Voila! The nets are installed on the Purple loosestrife plants (with beetles inside!).



Several weeks later, Beetle Ranchers bring the beetle nurseries and the beetle offspring into the wetlands, for release.



The beetles are little – and their larvae and eggs are even tinier!

How to Make a Net:

1. **Materials:** no-see-um netting; weather-proof thread; scissors; sewing machine; weather-proof cord; optional – cord-stop.
2. Start with a 60” x 54” piece of no-see-um cloth or bridal veil material for each net.
3. Sew a 1-inch seam along the 60-inch length of the material, through which you will thread a cord.
4. Fold the 60-inch length in half and sew up the one side to make a 54-inch long cylinder.
5. Thread a sturdy 65-inch cord through the 1-inch seam (tape a pencil to the cord, for easy threading), and attached a cord-stop (if provided).
6. Leave the top end open.

Questions? Contact me at 781-575-0354 or rocklen@neponset.org.

Thank you for your help!

Carly Rocklen
Neponset River Watershed Association
Fowl Meadow Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol Project