

**FOSS Insects Module  
Glossary  
2005 Edition**

**Abdomen:** One of the three body parts of an insect. (TG)

**Adult:** A fully grown insect. (TG, SS)

**Air:** One of the things mealworms need to live and grow. (TG)

**Ant:** An insect. (TG)

**Antennae:** The long, often slender, "feelers" on the head. (TG, SS)

**Bristle:** Stiff hairs on a waxworm's body. (TG)

**Bug:** An insect that has a tubelike beak for sucking fluids instead of a mouth for chewing food. (TG)

**Butterfly:** A brightly colored insect with two pairs of wings, a proboscis for sipping nectar, and antennae with a knob at the tip. (TG)

**Caterpillar:** A butterfly larva. (TG)

**Characteristic:** A feature of an animal or plant. (SS)

**Chirping:** A short, high-pitched sound, such as that made by a small bird or insect. (TG)

**Chrysalis:** A smooth, plasticlike protective sleeve in which butterflies pupate. (TG)

**Clasper:** Muscular pads on a waxworm's prolegs. (TG)

**Cocoon:** A protective covering in which a larva pupates. (TG)

**Cricket:** An insect with long antennae and legs for leaping. (TG)

**Darkling beetle:** The adult stage of the mealworm. (TG)

**Dead:** Not living. (TG)

**Diving:** To plunge headfirst into water. (TG)

**Droppings:** Insect waste. (TG)

**Egg:** The first stage of an insect's life cycle. (TG, SS)

**Eye spots:** "Fake eyes" on the second thoracic segment of a silkworm. (TG)

**Environment:** The surroundings of a plant or animal. (SS)

**Female:** A woman or girl. (TG)

**Floating:** Moving along slowly in the air or water; to rest on top of or be suspended in a liquid. (TG)

**Food:** One of the things mealworms need to live and grow. (TG)

**Habitat:** A home. (TG)

**Hatch:** To emerge from an egg. (TG)

**Head:** One of the three body parts of an insect. (TG)

**Inherit:** To get characteristics from parents. (SS)

**Insects:** A group of animals that have six legs and three body parts.: The three parts are the head, thorax, and abdomen. Most have antennae and wings. (TG, SS)

**Larva:** The form of an insect that hatches from eggs. (TG, SS)

**Legs:** The body parts that a person or animal stands and walks on. (TG)

**Life cycle:** The stages in the life of an insect. (TG, SS)

**Living:** Alive; having life; not dead. (TG)

**Male:** A man or boy. (TG)

**Marsh:** Soft, wet land that is sometimes covered with water. (SS)

**Mating:** When a male insect fertilizes a female insect's eggs. (TG)

**Mealworm:** A darkling beetle larva. (TG)

**Metamorphosis:** Stages in which an insect looks like a tiny version of the adult and molts or pupates. (TG)

**Milkweed bug:** A true bug that feeds on sunflower seed oils and goes through simple metamorphosis. (TG)

**Molt:** To shed. (TG)

**Mosquito:** A two-winged insect that sucks blood from other organisms. (TG)

**Moth:** A winged insect with hairlike antennae, stout bodies and mostly flies at night. (TG)

**Mulberry leaves:** The food that silkworms eat, which comes from the mulberry tree. (TG)

**Nectar:** A fluid from flowers that butterflies sip for food. (TG)

**Nymph:** A young insect that looks much like the adult. (TG)

**Offspring:** A new plant or animal produced by a parent. (SS)

**Ovipositor:** A structure that protrudes from the abdomen of a female cricket, which the female thrusts into moist earth to lay her eggs. (TG)

**Painted lady:** A butterfly with a short pair of front legs, coiled proboscis, large eyes, and an extension at the front of the head that looks like a snout. (TG)

**Proboscis:** A tubelike beak for sucking fluids. (TG)

**Proleg:** Leglike structures on four of a waxworm's abdominal segments. (TG)

**Pupa:** The form of an insect between the larva and adult stages. The pupa usually has some sort of covering to protect the insect. A cocoon is one kind. (TG, SS)

**Pupate:** To grow into a pupa inside of a cocoon. (TG, SS)

**Segment:** A small section of an insect. (TG)

**Silk:** A fine material that waxworm larvae produce to make cocoons. (TG)

**Silkworm:** The larva of the silkworm moth. (TG)

**Space:** One of the things mealworms need to live and grow. (TG)

**Spinneret:** Structures on some insects where silk comes out of the body. (TG)

**Spiracle:** Openings along the sides of a waxworm's body that let oxygen into the body. (TG)

**Stage:** A part of an insect's life cycle. (TG)

**Swimming:** To move through water by means of limbs, fins, or tail. (TG)

**Thorax:** One of the three body parts of an insect. (TG)

**Tunnel:** A structure that ants dig. (TG)

**Variation:** Difference. (SS)

**Waste:** Material that a butterfly ejects when it comes out of a chrysalis. (TG)

**Water:** One of the things mealworms need to live and grow. (TG)

**Water fountain:** A water source for insects in a zip bag. (TG)

**Wax moth:** A small flying insect that lays its eggs in beehives. (TG)

**Waxworm:** The larva of the greater wax moth. (TG)

**Wing:** The moveable appendages that birds and other animals use to fly. (TG)