

K. Using evidence to try to determine the health of an ecosystem

We can make observations to determine if our green space has signs of being a healthy ecosystem.

NB: These observations can differ with the seasons, temperature and the weather.

Supporting evidence to determine the health of a green space



A wide variety of invertebrates

Leaf litter is filled with invertebrate life

Litter hoppers/ land hoppers found

Beetles and/ or wētā found

Insect calls can be heard (especially at night e.g. wētā) this depends on the season

Lots of native/ endemic invertebrates found

Pollinator invertebrates found (e.g. bees and butterflies)

Few invertebrates and not much variety

Leaf litter has not much living in it

Land hoppers not found

Beetles and wētā not found

Not much insect noise

More introduced invertebrates than natives

Not many pollinator invertebrates

Invertebrates in an ecosystem

Invertebrates are a vital part of any ecosystem. They exist in almost every habitat and have different roles to play depending on where they live and which other living things are present. In a green space, invertebrates often help to keep waste under control and create healthy soil. Without healthy soil people could not grow nutritious foods.

Invertebrates are an important food source for some native birds, frogs, lizards, fish and bats. Some invertebrates even eat other invertebrates (e.g. dragonflies eat mosquitoes and help to keep mosquito numbers down).

Other invertebrates eat fungi, plants, nematodes, bacteria or protozoa. For more information about invertebrates in the ecosystem, see the video clip: 'Yucky bugs':

 [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

