



Baiting and Bait Recipe

Invite your favorite adult to help make your moth bait. The ingredients include raw fruit, sugar, and a splash of alcohol. (The kind people drink, not the kind from the pharmacy.) You'll find hundreds of recipes online. The secret to a great bait, we've learned, is letting the mixture rot a bit before serving. Our bait included three very brown bananas (fresh or frozen), half a cup of brown sugar, half a cup of stale beer, and a splash of rum. This concoction was thick and goopy and, after a week on the kitchen counter, seriously smelly. The moths loved it.

Bait is typically painted onto tree trunks, but we found that fence posts work just as well!

ONE LAST THING

We consulted several entomologists (insect scientists), and they all agreed that using lights is not harmful to your local moth population. Neither is leaving the lights on overnight. If you do this, however, be sure to get up early to see which moths have stopped by, and then shake your sheet to send them on their way. Otherwise, as the sun rises, birds will swoop in and eat your moths for breakfast!