

BACKYARD BAIT

For live bait, you can find everything you need just outside your back door.

Look for huge grasshoppers in fields and gardens through late fall. Crickets can be found around sheds, homes, fences, garages and sidewalks, under stones, or any place that has nooks and crannies where a cricket can hide.

Look for grasshoppers early in the morning sitting on weed stems before the sun warms them. Use a butterfly net to catch them easily. Or try this with a friend: Hold an old sheet between you and run through your yard or a field and catch the bugs that fly up.

You can trap crickets by putting a slice of bread in a jar placed on its side. Keep the lid next to the jar to trap crickets when you check it.

Store crickets or grasshoppers in a lidded coffee can with holes punched in the lid. Be careful—they can and will try to jump out. Feed them a few vegetable scraps, moistened to provide water.

Hook them through the body either ahead of or behind the back legs. Fish with grasshoppers and crickets as though they had just fallen in the water. These bugs are great for catching trout, bass and panfish.

"Bug" your hook, cast away and reel in the fish!

