

WORKING NEAR WATER – HEALTH AND SAFETY

- **Take care – even small ponds can be deep. Wet mud is slippery but don't hold on to things like willow branches because they can easily break.**
- **Take precautions against Weil's Disease and blue-green algae: cover any broken skin and avoid touching mucous membranes (eyes, nose, mouth). Wash hands before eating.**
- **The best way to obtain samples of aquatic plants is with a grapnel. See below.**
- **Note that some water plants have roots suspended in the water so removing any sample could be regarded as 'uprooting' and therefore be illegal. Use common sense, retaining an adequate sample and throwing the rest back.**

How to make a grapnel

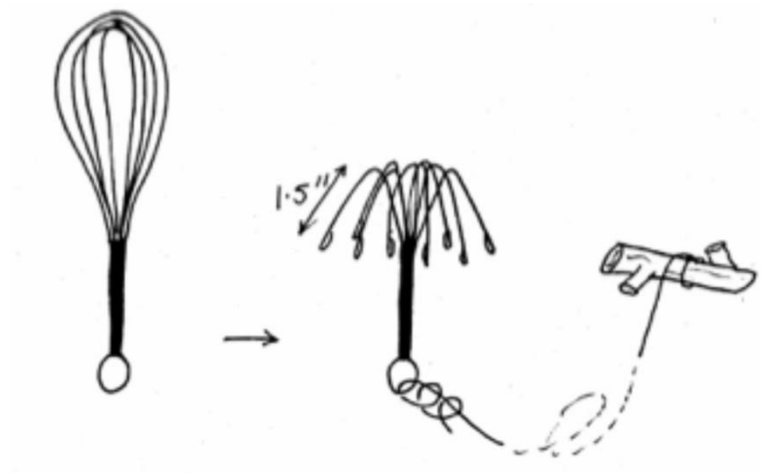
You need: a small metal balloon egg-whisk

a long length of cord

a suitable piece of wood or part of a branch to act as a handle and around which you can wind the cord.

Cut the loops of the whisk and bend them with pliers as shown. The length of each 'spoke' should only be 1.5 – 2 inches. Waterplants are delicate and a small, light grapnel is much more effective than a big, heavy one that can get stuck on things like supermarket trolleys.

Tie on the cord in whatever way is best – whisks with a hook or loop on the end are easiest – and neaten off with insulating tape if desired.



Grappel-throwing requires a minimal amount of skill!