

Avoiding Detrimental Habitat for Island Marble Butterflies



What is Detrimental Habitat?

- Patches or individual host plants that grow outside of created patches, and do not persist over the butterfly's complete life cycle.
- These are sometimes called "ecological traps".
- These patches could attract IMB away from created patches, and unless maintained for the full life cycle (~1 year), could result in significant loss of eggs and caterpillars.



Leave the patch for at least a year for full life cycle of butterfly.

What should you do if a spring blooming mustard patch, anticipated to bloom between April 1 and June 10, sprouts up outside of your created patches?

Remove vulnerable/unwanted patch between June 10 and April 1.

If you no longer wish to maintain the patch, it could be removed after next year's flight season (June 10).



- Some Removal Methods:
- Weeding (by hand pulling, weed trimmer, etc.)
 - Till and re-plant/re-seed with other plants, mow, grade, etc.