

Insect Netting- What Mesh Size and Style of Net You Need.

Insect netting is a fine mesh net made with long fibres that are designed to prevent small pests gaining access to a protected area. Originally designed to prevent a multitude of diseases spreading by airborne bugs, they have been around in some form for thousands of years. Even Cleopatra slept under a net for protection from mosquitos in a warm, humid ancient Egypt. They were originally made from cotton, but technology has allowed us to create insect nets with polyethylene or nylon. This allows a smaller mesh size, and thus a greater level of protection.

In terms of mesh size, the majority of modern nets are built with approximately a 1.3mm mesh. This offers protection from larger insects like mosquitos, flies, and the majority of crawling bugs. Smaller sizes are available, often rebranded as 'ultra-fine' or 'ultimate netting'. These offer a far greater form of protection, with a mesh of 0.6mm creating an impenetrable barrier against midges, fruit fly, and aphids.

[QVS insect netting](#) can be used to protect crops from the devastating effects of unwanted pests; infestations of flying insects account for the loss of around 10% of crops grown globally, and climate change is bringing more destructive species to our shores in greater numbers. To give your crops the best level of protection against pest species, ensure your crops are covered with a good quality net from seeding right up to harvest. This prevents insects reaching crops in the seedling stage where they are more vulnerable, and also prevents them from laying eggs in the surrounding soil which may hatch at a later date. A quality net should be light enough to lie directly on your plants; however crop cages could be used at an additional cost. Burying or tightly pegging the edges at ground level has the added benefit of preventing other destructive animals from reaching your produce. Netting can be a useful thing to have in the winter as well. When used in combination with a good quality fleece it offers excellent protection against frost and snow damage.

When selecting a net to purchase, there are several things to consider. First, as previously mentioned is mesh size. Although ultimate netting offers greater protection, it's also heavier so could damage more fragile seedlings without a crop cage. Second is UV stabilisation. The sun's rays can be damaging over an extended period of time, even in the UK's temperate climate. So it's important to ensure you buy a UV stabilised product, as well as a product that's resistant to mildew and rotting.