Troubleshooting your Mosquito Egg Trap

I’m not getting any eggs. Why?

1. Check the water level. Is there enough water that it is touching the bottom of the paper towel? The paper towel needs to be damp, or mosquitoes won’t lay eggs on it. Dry weather can evaporate the water, so make sure there is enough!

2. You can also try other methods to make the soda bottle darker and more opaque. For example, wrapping it in black or other dark colored construction paper works well.

Trap wrapped in black construction paper, held on with scotch tape.

3. You may have eggs and not realize! The eggs are very small and difficult to see with the naked eye. Here is a photo of a paper towel that has eggs on it:
My trap keeps on getting knocked over or other bugs keep getting in.

1. Try wedging the trap between a couple of heavy items or placing the trap inside a box or flowerpot that is heavy and stable. To prevent some other bugs you can try filling the outer pot with water to create a moat. This won’t prevent every bug, but some, like ants, will be deterred. Some possible set-ups:
Something keeps tearing up the paper towels/I don’t like the smell of the fish food water.

1. As an alternative to fish food, try putting some dead leaves and sticks from around your yard into the water. It doesn’t have to be much - just a handful will do. Place the organic material in the trap, fill to the bottom of the paper towel with water, and deploy like normal. This is less attractive to other animals than the fish food, and smells less strong.

This is plenty. Any kind of leaves will do.