



Attracting and Preserving Beneficial Insects

“When you kill a beneficial insect, you inherit their job”

An insect is considered beneficial when it is helpful to humans, especially gardeners. Beneficial insects help us by preying on garden pests, and pollinating our flowers and vegetables. The following is a list of commonly-known beneficial insects. You have no idea how many insects on your side! Let’s cultivate and manage this resource.

Attracting and Preserving: Here are ways to attract and maintain a beneficial “buggy” garden.

1. Reduce or avoid all pesticides – even organic ones. If a product is labeled to kill an insect, it is likely killing some beneficial species, even if you haven’t seen any. *When you kill a beneficial insect, you inherit its job.* Use this **Three-step process for identifying and treating gardening problems:**

- a. Identify the problem/pest correctly.
- b. Correct any cultural conditions contributing to the problem, and maintain plant health organically.
- c. Choose the least toxic strategy for addressing the problem/pest.

2. Grow your plants from organic or untreated seed, choose plants that are grown organically, or choose plants grown without the use of the systemic pesticides known as neonicotinoids. This relatively new class of insecticides, which includes products containing the active ingredients imidacloprid, bifenthrin, and clothianidin, are known to harm or kill bees, and are a suspected contributing cause of Colony Collapse Disorder.

3. Plant a variety of flowers that bloom year-round.

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|---------------------------|-------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Basil (esp. African Blue) | Duranta | Oregano | Salvia ‘Indigo Spires’ |
| Caryopteris (Bluebeard) | Echinacea | Penstemon | Sunflower |
| Catnip/Catmint | Gaillardia | Rosemary | Yarrow |
| Coreopsis | Globemallow | Rudbeckia | ...and many more |
| Cucurbits | Lavender | Salvia greggii | |

4. Beneficial Species list:

Predators (feed directly on prey as adults or young)

| | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Mantids | Dragon Fly | Mydas Fly (Soil Predator) | Long legged Fly |
| Centipedes | Damsel Fly | Wasps | Mealy Bug Destroyer |
| Spiders | Greater arid-land | Predatory Stink Bugs | Lightning Bug |
| Scorpions | predaceous Katydid | Spined Soldier Bug | Ant Lion |
| Assassin Bugs | Eyed Elator (Soil | Green Lacewing | Ambush Bug |
| Ground Beetles | predator) | Hover Fly / Syrphid Fly | Harvestman |
| Robber Fly | Owl Fly (Soil Predator) | Lady Bug | Twig Ant |

Parasitoids (lay eggs on or inside prey for young to feed upon)

| | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Tachinid Fly | Trichogramma Wasp | Great Golden Digger | Mason Wasp |
| Braconid Wasp | Phorid Fly | Wasp | |
| Ichneumon Wasp | Ensign Wasp | Cicada Killer | |

Pollinators

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| All species of bee | Many Wasp species | Many Fly species | Butterflies |
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