

Common Bugs in Our Gardens

This is meant to be a basic guide to help you get started
Visit BugGuide.net for a complete insect list

Pests

Leaf-footed bugs



Juvenile leaf-footed bugs



Squash bugs are an example of leaf-footed bugs

TRAP: adults and nymphs can be trapped in shallow bowls filled with 2 T. molasses, a splash of cider vinegar, and a pint of water placed beneath the plants canopy. If possible, change the liquid bait several times/week and position the bowls so their rims sit level with the soil surface.

Beneficials to attract include: praying mantis, spiders, tachinid flies

Organic product controls: neem and pyrethrins

Japanese Beetle



Beneficials to attract include: parasitic wasp

Organic product controls: for the adults use neem and pyrethrins and to control the grubs use milky spores

Aphids



Beneficials to attract include: Aphidius wasps, assassin bugs, big eyed bugs, damsel bugs, hover flies, lacewings, ladybugs, minute pirate bugs, parasitic wasps, praying mantis, spiders

Organic product controls: horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, neem

Also, beware, that a symbiotic relationship exists between ants and aphids. Aphids excrete “honeydew” that the ants eat. So if you see lots of ants around your bed, use lavender and peppermint to repel the ants so that they will not protect the aphids from the beneficials you attract.

Leafminer



Hands down the best control is the promotion of parasitic wasps. It is very difficult for anything sprayed on the leaf surface to penetrate down.

Some Beneficial Insects You will want to Attract

Parasitic Wasps



How to attract them: plant allium, alyssum, cosmos, dill fennel, lemon balm, thyme, statice, yarrow, and zinnia

Pests they help control: aphids, beetle larvae, bagworms, cabbage worms, Colorado potato beetle, corn ear worms, cucumber beetles, cutworms, Japanese beetles, leafminers, mealybugs, Mexican bean beetles, scale, squash vine borer, tomato hornworm, whiteflies

Praying Mantis



How to attract them: Since they do not feed on pollen or nectar, the best way to attract them is to create a suitable egg laying habitat for them. Plant goldenrod, ironweed, Joe Pye weed, ornamental grasses, and raspberries. These plants have sturdy straight stems that they can attach their egg case to. Allow these stems to stand through the winter and do not cut back.

Pests they help control: aphids, caterpillars, Colorado potato beetles, earwigs, leafhoppers, Mexican bean beetles, squash bugs

Assassin Bugs



How to attract them: As long as there is prey around assassins will be there.

Pests they help control: aphids, cabbage worms, Colorado potato beetle, cucumber beetles, cutworms, earwigs, Japanese beetles, lace bugs, Mexican bean beetle, tomato hornworms, and many caterpillars

Hover Flies



How to attract them: Be sure there is something in bloom from the last frost to the first. Plant alyssum, Aster, Coreopsis, cosmos, daisies, dill, fennel, feverfew, lavender, marigolds, mint, statice, sunflowers, wild mustard, zinnias

Pests they help control: aphids, young cabbage worms, caterpillars, mealybugs

Other Beneficials to look up:

Aphidius wasp

Big eyed bug

Damsel bug

Ground beetle

Lacewing

Ladybug

Minute pirate bug

Robber fly

Spider

Tachinid fly

Organic Product Controls

Neem

Pyrethrins