

Attracting pollinators and other helpful bugs

Luring pollinators

The plot features several plants that attract pollinators, like bees and butterflies, which are needed to pollinate many vegetable crops.

Included here are clover, foxglove beard-tongue, fireweed, wild bergamot, phlox, clover, borage, nettle, and milkweed.

Feeding the bugs that feed on pests

Plants can also be used to attract insects that help by eating pest insects. The following plants (some of which are planted here) are recommended:

Flowers: Black-eyed Susan, morning glory, yarrow, Queen Anne's lace, sunflower (and others in the sunflower family: daisy, marigold, zinnia, cosmos, goldenrod, aster, and many more)

Herbs: Catmint, spearmint, thyme, and those in the carrot family (e.g., parsley, dill, fennel, coriander)

A few good bugs



LADY BEETLE

Feeds on: aphids, scales, mites and mealybugs.

To attract lady beetles, plant: yarrow, golden-rod, and morning glory.

SPIDER

Feeds on: fleas, lace-bugs, and the eggs of the Japanese beetle and sod webworm.



Provide shade to draw spiders.



GROUND BEETLE

Feeds on: gypsy moths, caterpillars, weevils, and ants.

Low plants, groundcovers, and camphor weed will lure ground beetles.

GREEN LACEWING

Feeds on: aphids, white-flies, scales, mites, and lacebugs.



This beneficial insect is attracted to yarrow and wild carrot.



HOVER FLY

Feeds on: aphids, leafhoppers, scales, mealybugs, and thrips.

Hover flies are lured to coreopsis, candytuft, and morning glory.

Source: Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension