
















THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE BUGLY

HUMBER NURSERIES "GREEN THUMB GUIDE"



Let's start with the bad. Less than 1% of all bugs are bad. This means that there are predator bugs that need these bad bugs as food and/or host for their eggs. The #1 predator of bad bugs is the wasp family. Wasps have a kill rate of 80 – 85% of all caterpillars alone. The great majority of wasps are the size of an aphid and are in need of nectar producing plants for food. Members of the carrot family are the prized plants with Queen Anne's Lace attracting more wasps than all other plants combined! Only two members of the wasp family bite and they are both female. First is the potter wasp, highly valued for paralyzing their prey (mostly caterpillars) and putting them in a solitary cell with an egg. When the egg hatches, the live food supply is there. The second wasp to bite is the yellow jacket, also prized due to its main sources of food being tent caterpillars and corn borers. Keep in mind that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. You kill a bug and you take away the eco-system at work in your garden. You will not attract predator bugs unless you have food for them. A well-balanced garden has bad bugs, but not an infestation!

Create a habitat for beneficial insects















To attract	Plant
Syrphid flies Eat aphids, leaf hoppers & mealy bugs 	Morning Glory, Fennel, Alyssum, Buckwheat, Candy Tuft
Pirate bugs Eat aphids, thrips, scales, mites 	Evening Primrose, Pigweed, Mexican Tea
Lacewings Eat aphids, scale, whiteflies, mites 	Angelica, Euonymus, Fennel, Dusty Miller, Coreopsis
Chalcid wasps Parasites of aphids, scale, mealy bugs 	Alyssum, Clover, Yarrow
Spiders Eat what is caught in their web 	Silver Lace Vine, Snowberry
Tachinid flies Parasites of grasshopper, sawflies, caterpillars 	Alyssum, Queen Anne's Lace, Coriander
Trichogramma wasps Parasites of moth/butterfly eggs 	Queen Anne's Lace, Parsley, Caraway
Bees Invaluable as pollinators 	Borage, Monarda, Purple Cone Flower, Clover
Lady Bugs Eat aphids 	Angelica, Yarrow, Tansy, Euonymus, Morning Glory
Praying Mantids Eat any flying insects they catch 	Deciduous plants for cover
Dragon flies Eat small flying insects, mosquitoes 	Aquatic plants
Soldier Beetles Eat cutworms, gypsy moth larvae, snails 	Queen Anne's Lace, Evening Primrose
Ground Beetles Eat caterpillars 	Evening Primrose
Braconid wasps Eat cabbage butterfly, codling moth, bark beetles 	Fennel, Ivy, White Mustard, Yarrow
Potter wasps Eat caterpillars, beetle grubs 	Angelica, Fennel, Ivy, Rue

BENEFICIAL INSECTS

All insects play an important role in the circle of life. It is in your best interests to allow these creatures to do their job. You can help them by making your garden as attractive to them as possible with a variety of plants. If you use chemicals, you are interfering with and ultimately destroying their work.

The Scavengers: Earwigs, carrion beetles and ants are the most important scavengers. They remove dead carcasses from your garden.

The Predators: Wasps, praying mantids, ground beetles, lady beetles, lacewings, various flies, spiders and birds are the natural answer to controlling insect populations and maintaining garden harmony.

<p>Assassin Bug: Attracted by carrots and Mexican Tea (Carrot Family). Preys on ants, spiders, flies, Japanese beetles, leaf hoppers and mosquitoes. </p> <p>Blister Beetle: Larvae eat grasshopper eggs. Give off hot toxic substance (Catharidin). It causes blisters. </p> <p>Carrion Beetle: Requires habitat – ie: ivy and ground cover. Eats decaying plant material, snails and caterpillars. Characteristics: black with orange/red markings. Strong spiny legs for digging. Two beetles can move a carcass as big as a rat. </p> <p>Cricket: Crickets love aphids and other soft bodied insects. Attracted by low growing perennials. Good alarm system. Crickets stop chirping at night if someone enters your yard. </p> <p>Damsel Bug: Preys on aphids, caterpillars and leaf hoppers. Damsel bugs are found in all sorts of vegetation – especially in plants of the carrot family. </p> <p>Dance Fly: Dance flies eat black fly larvae and mites, mosquitoes, leaf miners, flies and scale. Characteristics: small, hairy. "Dance" in the air during mating season. Can be found on plants in moist areas. </p> <p>Eulophid Wasp: Eulophid wasps parasitize nearly all insects – especially leaf miners and gall formers and may attack eggs of other wasps. Stout body, may be yellowish or brownish in colour and often metallic. </p>	<p>Fairy Fly: Lays eggs in plant hoppers. When females insert eggs into eggs of host, further development is arrested. Characteristics: tiny wasp with yellow and dark brown colours. May use wings as paddles in water to reach eggs of giant water beetle. </p> <p>Ichneumon Wasp: Attracted by carrot family of herbs, Tree of Heaven, white mustard and coriander. Lays eggs in sawfly, gypsy moth – up to 3000 eggs in one host. Does not sting, likes damp areas. </p> <p>Plant Bug: Requires habitat and cover – attracted by evening primrose. Eats aphids, mealy bugs, slugs and scale. </p> <p>Platygastrid Wasp: Lays eggs in the eggs of host. Larvae do not eat vital organs of host, so that host develops. Platygastrid Wasps control mealy bugs, midges and galls created by midges. </p> <p>Spider Hunting Wasp: Venom of this wasp paralyzes spiders. After paralyzing spider, it lays an egg on it, and buries it in the ground. </p> <p>Tiger Beetle: Fastest insect runner! Fierce predator. Feeds on various insects including ants. Beautifully coloured black or metallic green with different shaped patterns. </p> <p>Nematodes: Beneficial Nematodes (<i>Steinernema carpocapsea</i>) are especially effective against caterpillars. Nematodes can also be used to control fleas, iris borers, grubs, cabbage root maggots and strawberry root weevils. What a champ! </p>
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