Attract Beneficial Insects!

Beneficial insects are the bulk of insects visiting your garden and deserve our attention and protection. To provide for their well being think of your garden as habitat! Incorporate flowering plants into your landscape and vegetable garden for year round bloom. Use native plants; they are recognizable to native insects. Use plants from the Asteraceae (Daisy), Lamiaceae (Mint) and Apiaceae (Carrot) families – not only are they great food, herb and flower plants that we enjoy, but they are very powerful attractors for bees, ladybeetles, parasitoid wasps and other helpful insects. Provide habitat for different phases of their lives. Many native bees are solitary nesters in twigs and holes in wood or they nest underground in social and semi-social burrows. Rock piles, snags, non-mulched soil, and leaving stems of dead ornamental grasses can provide a home. Brushy plants that the larvae of butterflies and moths can feed on will enable the adults to lay eggs in your garden. Be tolerant of some damage on the shrubs while their larvae grow. Reduce or eliminate pesticide use; even “safe” products can be harmful to beneficial insects.

Websites
Bumblebee Conservation bumblebeeconservation.org/gardeningadvice
Farmer Fred farmerfredrant.blogspot.com/2010/07/plants-that-attract-beneficial-insects.html
Pollinator Partnership pollinator.org/
Pollinator Pathway pollinatorpathway.com/
Xerces Society xerces.org/

Books
Attracting Native Pollinators: Protecting North America's Bees and Butterflies
The Xerces Society Paperback, $25 members, $30 nonmembers
Managing Alternative Pollinators: A Handbook for Beekeepers, Growers, and Conservationists
Eric Mader, Marla Spivak, and Elaine Evans
The Butterflies of Cascadia
Robert Michael Pyle
Befriending Bumble Bees
Elaine Evans, Ian Burns and Marla Spivak
Insects of the Pacific Northwest
Peter Haggard, Judy Haggard

Citizen Science
Bumble Bee Watch bumblebeewatch.org
Great Sunflower Project greatsunflower.org
Dragonfly Pond Watch migratorydragonflypartnership.org
Pollinator Pathway pollinatorpathway.com
Urban Pollination Project (archive) urbanpollinationproject.org

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