

# 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](http://bumblebeeconservation.org/gardeningadvice)  
Farmer Fred [farmerfredrant.blogspot.com/2010/07/plants-that-attract-beneficial-insects.html](http://farmerfredrant.blogspot.com/2010/07/plants-that-attract-beneficial-insects.html)  
Pollinator Partnership [pollinator.org/](http://pollinator.org/)  
Pollinator Pathway [pollinatorpathway.com/](http://pollinatorpathway.com/)  
Xerces Society [xerces.org/](http://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](http://bumblebeewatch.org)  
Great Sunflower Project [greatsunflower.org](http://greatsunflower.org)  
Dragonfly Pond Watch [migratorydragonflypartnership.org](http://migratorydragonflypartnership.org)  
Pollinator Pathway [pollinatorpathway.com](http://pollinatorpathway.com)  
Urban Pollination Project (archive) [urbanpollinationproject.org](http://urbanpollinationproject.org)



### Lady Beetle

**Carrot Family:** Angelica, Cilantro and Fennel

**Daisy Family:** Cosmos, Dandelion, Echinacea and Marigold

**Mint Family:** Ajuga, Mint, Lavender, Oregano and Thyme

**Other:** Nasturtium, Penstemon and Statice



### Green Lacewing

**Carrot Family:** Angelica, Cilantro and Fennel

**Daisy Family:** Coreopsis, Cosmos, Rudbeckia and Yarrow

**Pea Family:** Clover and Alfalfa



### Anise Swallowtail Butterfly

**Carrot Family:** Fennel, Parsley and Queen Anne's Lace

**Daisy Family:** Echinacea, Rudbeckia and Zinnia

**Other:** Rue



### Parasitoid Wasp

**Carrot Family:** Dill, Fennel, and Lovage

**Daisy Family:** Cosmos, Marigold, Yarrow and Zinnia

**Mint Family:** Lemon Balm, Mint and Thyme

**Other:** Alyssum, Lobelia and Potentilla



### Hoverfly

**Carrot Family:** Dill, Cilantro, Fennel and Queen Anne's Lace

**Daisy Family:** Aster, Chrysanthemum, Rudbeckia, Marigold, Yarrow and Zinnia

**Mint Family:** Ajuga, Lavender, Lemon Balm, Mint, Monarda and Thyme

**Other:** Allium, Amaranth, Buckwheat, Goldenrod, Lobelia, Penstemon and Sedum



### Native Bumble Bee

**Daisy Family:** Bachelor's Button, Calendula, Dahlia, Echinacea, Goldenrod and Sunflower

**Mint Family:** Catnip, Lavender, Monarda, Mint, Oregano and Thyme

**Borage Family:** Borage, Comfrey, Forget-Me-Not, Heliotrope and Phacelia

**Other:** Penstemon, Rose and Salvia



### Honey Bee

**Daisy Family:** Aster, Calendula, Cornflower, Echinops, Marigold and Sunflower

**Mint Family:** Lavender, Monarda, Oregano, Rosemary and Thyme

**Other:** Clematis, Crocus, Hebe, Poppy, Sedum and Snapdragon



### Leaf Cutter Bee

**Daisy Family:** Goldenrod and Sunflower

**Mint Family:** Lavender

**Other:** Legumes, Penstemon and Phacelia



### Soldier Beetle

**Carrot Family:** Eryngium and Queen Anne's Lace

**Daisy Family:** Echinops, Echinacea, Goldenrod, Helianthus, Marigold and Zinnia

**Mint Family:** Winter Savory



### Woodland Skipper Butterfly

**Daisy Family:** Aster, Dandelion, Marigold, Rudbeckia and Zinnia

**Mint Family:** Lavender, Oregano and Sage

**Other:** Grasses for larvae

## Learn More About Natural Yard Care

Contact the Garden Hotline with your garden questions!  
[help@gardenhotline.org](mailto:help@gardenhotline.org) (206) 633-0224 [gardenhotline.org](http://gardenhotline.org)



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