

PLANTS THAT ATTRACT BENEFICIAL INSECTS
NON-NATIVE

Planting herbs and flowers and allowing them to bloom in the garden will attract many different kinds of beneficial insects. Aim for a variety of flower heights, sizes, and shapes.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Cilantro/Coriander	<i>Coriandrum sativum</i>
Sweet alyssum	<i>Lebanthus maritimus</i>
Margolds	<i>Tagetes spp.</i>
Borage	<i>Borago officinalis</i>
Dill	<i>Anethum graveolens</i>
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>
Lavender	<i>Latvaulula spp.</i>
Zinnia	<i>Zinnia spp.</i>
Calendula	<i>Calendula officinalis</i>

NATIVE TO WESTERN WASHINGTON

While all native plants naturally attract beneficial insects, here are a few excellent options to add to your outdoor spaces:

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONDITIONS
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	☀️ ☁️ 🌧️
Coast gumweed	<i>Grindelia integrifolia</i>	☀️ ☁️ 🌧️
Ocean spray	<i>Hololeucis discolor</i>	☀️ ☁️ 🌧️
Indian plum	<i>Oenothera cerasiformis</i>	☀️ ☁️ 🌧️
Red-flowering curcunt	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	☀️ ☁️ 🌧️
Henderson's checker mallow	<i>Sidalcea hendersonii</i>	☀️ ☁️ 🌧️
Western Canada goldenrod	<i>Solidago lepida</i>	☀️ ☁️ 🌧️
Douglas' aster	<i>Symphoricarichum subspicatum</i>	☀️ ☁️ 🌧️
Foamflower	<i>Tiarella triflora</i>	☀️ ☁️ 🌧️
Stinging nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	☀️ ☁️ 🌧️
Early blue violet	<i>Viola adunca</i>	☀️ ☁️ 🌧️

CONDITIONS
LIGHT ☀️ Full Sun ☁️ Full/Partial Sun ☂️ Partial Sun ☁️ Shade
WATER ☀️ Dry ☁️ Dry/Moist 🌧️ Moist/Wet
FLOWERING TIME 🌸 Spring 🌺 Summer 🍂 Late Summer



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 CARNATION, WA

Oxbow
 Fore & Conservation Center
HOW TO: Attract Beneficial Insects



Gardens and landscapes thrive with diverse communities of insects. Spiders, mites, centipedes, and harvestmen. Aside from a few pesky plant vandals like aphids and tent caterpillars, most species play helpful ecosystem roles. Learn how to attract beneficial insects for pest control and pollination, ensuring your garden and outdoor spaces stay healthy!

EASY TIPS TO ATTRACT BENEFICIAL INSECTS MINIMIZE PESTICIDE USE

Even small amounts can harm beneficial insects. Consider using row covers to exclude pests from your garden, and opt for less toxic alternatives like insecticidal soap when necessary.

ACCEPT SOME PLANT PESTS

Eliminating all insect pests from your yard can discourage the establishment of beneficial insects.

ALLOW SOME VEGETABLE AND HERBS TO FLOWER AND SET SEED

Plants like cilantro, dill, fennel, basil, and kale are great for attracting pollinators and beneficial insects. Allowing these plants to bloom will provide floral resources such as nectar and pollen that will help feed beneficial insects when pests are scarce.

CHOOSE PLANTS WITH VARIOUS BLOOM TIMES

Growing a variety of plants with staggered bloom times ensures consistent floral resources insects need throughout the seasons.

ADD NATIVE PLANTS INTO YOUR LANDSCAPE

Native plants' traits are beautifully matched to native insects' preferences and behaviors because they have coevolved for millennia.

MOW HIGHER, LESS OFTEN, AND LET SOME WEEDS GROW IN YOUR LAWN

Allowing some broadleaf plants like clover, dandelions, or selfheal, to grow in your lawn provides an additional source of flowers for bees and other insects. Less frequent mowing at a higher height allows these plants to rebloom and attracts beneficial insects to your garden.

LEAVE SOME BARE SOIL IN YOUR GARDEN

Many insects, including many native bees, nest in the ground and require access to un-mulched soil.

CLEAN UP YOUR GARDEN IN THE SPRING RATHER THAN THE FALL

Leaving some plants to stand through the winter provides critical overwintering habitat for insects. Keeping a small pile of woody debris, if you have the space, is another great way to provide habitat for beneficial insects year round.



HELPFUL RESOURCES BOOKS

- Granshaw, Whitney and Shetlar, David. 2018. *Garden Insects of North America*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Flint, Mary L., and Dreistadt, Steve H. 1998. *Natural Enemies Handbook: The illustrated guide to biological pest control*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- Haggard, Peter and Haggard, Judy. 2006. *Insects of the Pacific Northwest*. Portland, OR: Timber Press.
- Walliser, Jessica. 2014. *Attracting Beneficial Bugs to your Garden*. Portland, OR: Timber Press.
- Xerces Society. 2011. *Attracting Native Pollinators*. North Adams, MA: Storey Publishing.
- Xerces Society. 2016. *100 Plants to Feed the Bees*. North Adams, MA: Storey Publishing.

DIGITAL

-  [Beneficial Insects, Spiders, and Other Mini-Creatures in Your Garden](#), WSU Extension.
-  [A Pocket Guide to Common Natural Enemies of Crop and Garden Pests in the Pacific Northwest](#), OSU Extension.
-  [Organic Pesticides: Minimizing Risks to Pollinators and Beneficial Insects](#), Xerces Society.
-  [The Xerces Society](#)
-  [Native Plant Finder](#)
-  [Washington State University Extension](#)
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