

PLANTS THAT ATTRACT BENEFICIAL INSECTS

Insects require nectar and undisturbed soil habitat. The adults of many predatory insects must sip nectar or feed on pollen to have the energy to lay eggs. The larvae (in the case of ladybugs, the adults also) feed on aphids, caterpillars, thrips, mites, scales, mealybugs and other insects.



Equally important is an ample supply of water for the insects. Research showed that aphid midges (*Aphidoletes aphidimyza*) laid considerably more eggs with a constant source of water than without. Shallow dishes filled with water or birdbaths and a couple rocks protruding from the water surface work really well. Of course good mulching practices provide habitat for all kinds of predacious beetles and other small animals.

| Ornamental plants that attract beneficial insects to the garden (Compiled from many different university publications) | | |
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| Botanical name | Common name | Insects attracted (common name) |
| <i>Achillea</i> spp. | Yarrow | Ladybugs, parasitic wasps, lacewings, syrphid flies |
| <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> | Tree of heaven | Syrphid flies, chloropid flies, braconid wasps, ichneumonid wasps, lacewings |
| <i>Ajuga reptans</i> | Carpet bugleweed | Syrphid flies, ladybugs |

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| <i>Allium</i> spp. | Allium | Parasitic wasps, |
| <i>Allium tanguticum</i> | Vender globe lily | Syrphid flies |
| <i>Alyssum</i> spp. | Perennial alyssum | Lots |
| <i>Amaranthus</i> spp. | Love-Lies-Waiting | Ground beetles |
| <i>Ammi majus</i> | Queen Anne's lace | Parasitic wasps, pirate bugs, syrphid flies |
| <i>Anethum</i> spp. | Dill | Aphid midge, lacewings, ladybugs, syrphid flies, parasitic wasps, and many others |
| <i>Angelica gigas</i> | Angelica | Lacewings, lady beetles, sand wasps |
| <i>Anthemis</i> spp. | Golden marguerite | Parasitic wasps, tachinid flies, lacewings, ladybugs, syrphid flies |
| <i>Agrostemma</i> spp. | Corn cockle | Ladybugs, parasitic wasps |
| <i>Asclepias</i> spp. | Butterfly weed | Ladybugs |
| <i>Aster</i> spp. | Aster | Syrphid flies |
| <i>Astrantia major</i> | Masterwort | Syrphid flies, parasitic wasps |
| <i>Atriplex canescens</i> | Four-wing Saltbush | Lacewings, ladybugs, syrphid flies, sand wasps |
| <i>Aurinia saxatilis</i> | Basket-of-gold | Syrphid flies |
| <i>Buddleia</i> spp. | Butterfly bush | Lots |
| <i>Calendula</i> spp. | Calendula | Lots |
| <i>Callirhoe involucrata</i> | Purple poppy mallow | Lacewings, syrphid flies, parasitic wasps |
| <i>Carum carvi</i> | Caraway | Tachinid flies, lacewings, syrphid flies, parasitic wasps, damsel bugs |
| <i>Ceanothus</i> spp. | California lilac | Lots |
| <i>Cheiranthus</i> spp. | Wallflower | Lots |
| <i>Chrysanthemum maximum</i> | Shasta daisy | Lots |

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| <i>Chrysanthemum parthenium</i> | Feverfew | Syrphid flies |
| <i>Convulvulus tricolor</i> | Morning glory | Syrphid flies |
| <i>Coriandrum sativum</i> | Coriander | Lacewings, ladybugs, syrphid flies, parasitic wasps |
| <i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i> | Cosmos | Big-eyed bugs, lacewings, ladybugs, damsel bugs, minute pirate bugs, tachinid flies, syrphid flies, parasitic wasps |
| <i>Cosmos 'Diablo'</i> | Cosmos Diablo | Lacewings |
| <i>Cosmos 'Sunny Red'</i> | Cosmos Sunny Red | Parasitic wasps |
| <i>Coriandrum sativum</i> | Coriander | Syrphid flies, parasitic wasps, pirate bugs, tachinid flies |
| <i>Coreopsis</i> spp. | Tickweed | Syrphid flies, lacewings, ladybugs, parasitic wasps |
| <i>Crocus</i> spp. | Crocus | Braconid wasps |
| <i>Daucus carota</i> | Queen Anne's lace (Wild carrot) | Lacewings, predatory wasps, minute pirate bugs, tachinid flies, ladybugs, syrphid flies, parasitic wasps, big-eyed bugs |
| <i>Echinacea</i> spp. | Coneflower | Lots |
| <i>Eriogonum</i> spp. | Wild buckweed | Syrphid flies, minute pirate bugs, big-eyed bugs, parasitic wasps, sand wasps, tachinid flies, chloropid flies |
| <i>Erysimum</i> spp. | Perennial wallflower | Lots |
| <i>Euonymus japonica</i> | Evergreen euonymus | Lacewings, chloropid flies, tachinid flies, syrphid flies, chalcidic wasps, braconid wasps, ichneumonid wasps, ladybugs |

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| <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> | Fennel | Syrphid flies, lacewings, ladybugs, paper wasps, soldier bugs, parasitic wasps, big-eyed bugs, damsel bugs, minute pirate bugs, predatory wasps, tachinid flies, brachonid wasps, sand wasps |
| <i>Hedera</i> spp. | Ivy | Syrphid flies, tachinid flies, braconid wasps, sand wasps |
| <i>Helianthus maximiliani</i> | Prairie sunflower | Lacewings, ladybugs |
| <i>Heliotropium arborescens</i> | Heliotrope | Lots |
| <i>Iberis</i> spp. | Candytuft | Lots |
| <i>Lavandula</i> spp. | Lavender | Syrphid flies |
| <i>Layia platyglossa</i> | Tidytips | Parasitic wasps, pirate bugs |
| <i>Limnanthes douglasii</i> | Meadowfoam / poached egg plant | Syrphid flies |
| <i>Limonium latifolium</i> | Statice | Syrphid flies, parasitic wasps |
| <i>Linaria vulgaris</i> | Butter and eggs | Syrphid flies, parasitic wasps |
| <i>Lobelia erinus</i> | Lobelia | Syrphid flies, parasitic wasps |
| <i>Lobularia maritima</i> | Annual (Sweet) alyssum | Syrphid flies, lacewings, parasitic wasps, pirate bugs, chalcidic wasps, tachinid flies |
| <i>Lychnis coronaria</i> | Crown pink | Syrphid flies, parasitic wasps |
| <i>Medicago sativa</i> | Alfalfa | Minute pirate bugs, big-eyes bugs, damsel bugs, assassin bugs, lady bugs, |

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| | | parasitic wasps |
| <i>Melissa officinalis</i> | Lemon Balm | Tachinid flies, syrphid flies, parasitic wasps |
| <i>Mentha pulegium</i> | Pennyroyal | Tachinid flies, syrphid flies, parasitic wasp, damsel bugs |
| <i>Mentha spicata</i> | Spearmint | Syrphid flies, tachinid flies, damsel bugs |
| <i>Monarda</i> spp. | Beebalm | Syrphid flies |
| <i>Nemophila menziesii</i> | Baby blue eyes | Parasitic wasps, pirate bugs, syrphid flies |
| <i>Oenothera laciniata</i> , <i>O. biennis</i> | Evening primrose | Ground beetles |
| <i>Penstemon strictus</i> | Rocky Mt. Penstemon | Ladybugs, syrphid flies |
| <i>Petroselinum crispum</i> | Parsley | Tachinid flies, parasitic wasps, syrphid flies |
| <i>Phacelia tanacetifolia</i> | Phacelia | Tachinid wasps |
| <i>Pieris</i> spp. | Pieris | Ichneumonid wasps |
| <i>Polygonum aubertii</i> | Silver lace vine | Tachinid flies, syrphid flies |
| <i>Potentilla</i> spp. | Potentilla | Syrphid flies, parasitic wasps, ladybugs, parasitic wasps |
| <i>Reseda odorata</i> | Mignonette | Lots |
| <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> | Black locust | Ladybugs |
| <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> | Rosemary | Syrphid flies |
| <i>Rudbeckia</i> 'Double Gold' | Gloriosa daisy | Syrphid flies |
| <i>Ruta graveolens</i> | Rue | Mud wasps, potter wasps, ichneumonid wasps |
| <i>Salvia</i> spp. | Sage | Lots |
| <i>Schizanthus</i> spp. | Schizanthus | Lots |
| <i>Sedum kamtschaticum</i> | Orange stonecrop | Syrphid flies, parasitic wasps |

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| <i>S. spurium</i> , <i>S. album</i> | Stonecrop | Syrphid flies |
| <i>Solidago</i> spp. | Goldenrod | Syrphid flies, tachinid flies, damsel bugs, predacious beetles, big-eyes bugs, ladybugs, spiders, parasitic wasps, long-legged flies, assassin bugs |
| <i>Stachys</i> spp | Stachys | Syrphid flies |
| <i>Symphoricarpos</i> spp. | Snowberry | Syrphid flies, tachinid flies |
| <i>Tagetes tenuifolia</i> | Marigold | Tachinid flies, ladybugs, parasitic wasps |
| <i>Tagetes</i> 'Lemon Gem' | Marigold | Ladybugs |
| <i>Tagetes</i> 'Golden Gem' | Marigold | Syrphid flies |
| <i>Tanacetum vulgare</i> | Tansy | Lacewings, ladybugs, parasitic wasps, pirate bugs, tachinid flies, insidious flower bugs, lacewings |
| <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> | Dandelion | Lacewings, ladybugs |
| <i>Thymus</i> spp. | Thyme | Lots |
| <i>Trifolium incarnatum</i> | Crimson clover | Minute pirate bugs, big-eyed bugs, ladybugs |
| <i>Trifolium repens</i> | White clover | Parasitic wasps |
| <i>Verbena</i> spp. | Verbena | Lots |
| <i>Veronica spicata</i> | Speedwell | Syrphid flies, ladybugs |
| <i>Vicia villosa</i> | Hairy vetch | Ladybugs |
| <i>Zinnia elegans</i> | Zinnia | Parasitic wasps, syrphid flies |

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See also: [Beneficial Insects](#) and [Gardening for Wildlife](#)

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