



BENEFICIAL

Insects

MANY INSECTS are considered beneficial because they cause little damage themselves yet help control other damaging insects. The best way to encourage them is to learn to identify them in both their adult and larva stages. For example, ladybugs are very beneficial, but their larval stage looks quite different and might not be recognized. Also, Spined Soldier Bugs look a lot like Stink Bugs.

Another important way to avoid killing beneficial insects in your yard is to not use pesticides. Spraying large areas with non-specific insecticide is sure to kill beneficial insects. Some beneficial insects are sold commercially by garden centers—releasing insects is especially useful in a greenhouse.

Beneficial insects will stay around as long as there is food. Leave some weeds among vegetables to provide alternate food sources. Provide shallow water sources. Permanent pathways and beds provide protected areas for insects to hide when you are cultivating.

EXAMPLES OF BENEFICIAL INSECTS

Praying Mantis control aphids, grasshoppers, beetles & mosquitoes.

Braconid Wasp control aphids.

Ladybugs control aphids, whiteflies, spider mites & mealybugs.

Lacewings control aphids, thrips, spider mites, whiteflies & scale.

Spined Soldier Bugs control Colorado potato beetle and Mexican bean beetle.

Dragonflies control mosquitoes & gnats.

Tachinid Flies control corn borers, stink bugs & caterpillars especially tent caterpillars & army worms.

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