



BENEFICIAL INSECTS

JUST FRUITS & EXOTICS

30 ST. FRANCES ST.

CRAWFORDVILLE FL 32327

OFFICE: 850-926-5644 FAX: 850-926-9885

JUSTFRUITS@HOTMAIL.COM

WWW.JUSTFRUITSANDEXOTICS.COM

HOW TO MAKE YOUR GOOD BUGS FEEL WELCOME

Beneficial insects are more likely to remain in your garden if there is a ready food supply. While you can buy many of these predators, it's probably cheaper and more effective to encourage the ones already in your garden. Many beneficial insects need to sip flower nectar to survive. Plan your garden to feed beneficial insects by choosing a variety of plants that will bloom as many months of the year as possible. Here are some things you can do to support your beneficial insect population:

- **Plant nectar-producing flowers** to further increase the food supply. Plants in the cabbage, carrot and sunflower family are especially attractive to beneficial insects.
- **Control ants**, which may prevent predators from controlling aphids.
- **Don't use persistent, broad-spectrum, contact insecticides.** These provide only temporary pest control and are likely to kill more of the natural enemies than the pests. When their enemies are gone, pest populations may soar and become more of a problem than before they were sprayed.
- **Cover bare dirt in your garden with mulch of dead leaves or grass clippings**, thick enough to shade the soil surface. This provides shelter for spiders, which are the number one predator on insects. (Most of these spiders are tiny.)

DON'T FORGET THE BIRDS

Birds can also be very helpful with controlling pests in your garden. Trees, shrubs with berries, birdhouses and water features all encourage birds to visit your yard.

HERE ARE SOME PLANTS THAT ARE ATTRACTIVE TO BENEFICIAL INSECTS

ANNUALS

Dill (*Anethum graveolens*)
Cilantro/Coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*)
Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*)
Alyssum (*Lobularia maritime*)
Lovage (*Levisticum officinale*)
Cosmos (*Cosmos bipinnatus*)

BIENNIAL

Parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*) biennial;
Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)

PERENNIALS

Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*)
Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)
Garlic chives (*Allium tuberosum*),
Anise hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*) annual;

There are a number of different ways that you can use these flowers, such as plant them in rows among your vegetables, create wide borders around the outside of your vegetable garden or shrubs, or place "island" plantings in the middle of a vegetable garden or landscape. Some vegetable plants, when allowed to flower, will also attract beneficials. These include broccoli, lettuce, other greens, bok choy and corn. If you like to grow broccoli, you may want to let the side shoots grow and flower after harvesting the main head.

Another good source of food for beneficial insects are cover crops (which are legume or grain crops that are planted between rotations of garden crops to improve the soil and prevent erosion) and living mulches (the same plants but, used as a ground cover under trees and shrubs to suppress weeds and shade the soil.) Some examples are crimson clover, hairy vetch, buckwheat

To read more about how to attract beneficial insects to your garden, check out these links on the web.

http://www.uiweb.uidaho.edu/so-id/entomology/Beneficial_Insects.htm

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/IN078>

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/IN002>