

Beneficial Insects



Beneficial Insects and Their Services

- **Pollinators:** Honeybees, bumble bees, orchard mason bees, wasps, flies, butterflies
- **Predator Insects:** Spined Soldier Bugs, Lady Bugs, Praying Mantis, Lace-wings, Spiders (not insects) and more
- **Parasitizing Insects:** Various wasps and flies that lay eggs within the pest insect in order to raise their young
- [Link to Beneficial Insect website](#)



Creating Beneficial Insect Habitat

In order to attract beneficial insects you need to have a habitat. Many insects in adult form nectar on flowers, these flowers serve as a 'watering hole' for the insect community. Insects drink nectar, mate, lay eggs and then the larvae eat other insects. A habitat includes:

- Nectar rich flowers that bloom from spring until fall (April-late October) this can be accomplished by planting many species that flower in succession throughout the growing season.
- Larger flowers are more noticeable to many species
- Many plants in the mint and aster family are good for attracting beneficials
- Create an overwintering habitat in the flower bed for beneficial.
- [Link to Insectary Plant Profiles document](#)