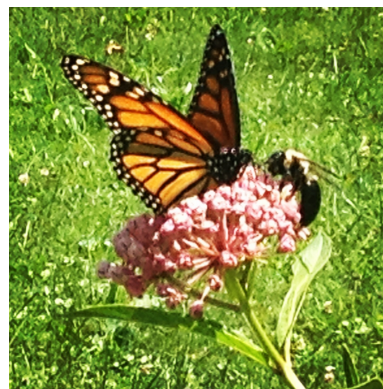


Attracting Beneficial Insects

Attract Beneficials: Dos

- Have plants in flower from spring through fall
- Have diversity in your plantings, with a mix of trees, shrubs, grass, and ornamentals
- Plant natives
 - Common milkweed
 - Butterfly weed
 - Bee-Balm
 - Black-eyed Susan
- Plant the best flowers to attract beneficials:
 - Carrot Family (Apiaceae) – coriander/cilantro, dill, fennel, Queen Anne’s Lace
 - Aster Family (Asteraceae) – coneflower, coreopsis, cosmos, goldenrod, sunflower, yarrow
 - Mustard Family (Brassicaceae) – alyssum, mustards, yellow rocket
 - Verbena Family (Verbenaceae) – lantana, verbena, vervain
- Attract monarchs with milkweed
- Attract swallowtails with fennel, dill, or parsley
- Plant single flower tops rather than doubles
- Have a shallow container of water such as a pot saucer with a few pebbles
- Provide nesting sites
 - Trees, shrubs
 - Small, undisturbed patch of sparsely vegetated ground for ground-nesting bees, facing south
 - Bee houses
 - Host plants
- Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
 - Take no action, physical control, mechanical control, cultural control, biological control, chemical control as a last resort



Attract Beneficials: Don'ts

- Do not plant highly hybridized plants because they have not been bred to seed and therefore produce very little nectar
- Limit use of any insecticides because
 - many beneficial insects are more sensitive to them than the pests are
 - new pests coming into your garden will be unaffected
- Insecticides includes organics such as insecticidal soap and neem oil, as well as more toxic chemicals
- Do not use pesticides as a preventative (only consider use when you have a pest problem)
- Avoid using synthetic broad-spectrum insecticides (the single greatest impediment to attracting beneficial insects)
- Do not have a large swath of lawn with little to no plant diversity
- Do not purchase beneficial insects as they are likely to leave your garden if they do not like the conditions
- Limit or avoid use of herbicides, as some studies suggest these chemicals harm pollinators