

Pro Tips: Attract More Beneficial Bugs to Your Garden: Susan Mulvihill



Meet the Beneficials!

Insect	What They Eat
Assassin bugs	Aphids, cabbage worms, Colorado potato beetles, cucumber beetles, cutworms, earwigs, hornworms, leafhoppers, stink bugs
Damsel bugs	Aphids, cabbage worms, Colorado potato beetle eggs and larvae, corn earworms, cutworms, various insect eggs, leafhoppers, whiteflies
Dragonflies/damselflies	Beetles, mosquitoes, moths
Ground beetles	Aphids, carrot rust flies, Colorado potato beetles, corn earworms, diamondback moths, root maggots, slugs, squash vine borers
Hoverflies	Aphids, cabbage loopers, cabbage worms, leafhoppers, thrips
Lacewings	Aphids, asparagus beetle larvae, cabbage worms, Colorado potato beetle larvae, corn earworms, hornworms, various insect eggs, leafhoppers, thrips, whiteflies
Ladybugs (<i>larva pictured above</i>)	Aphids, asparagus beetles, Colorado potato beetle larvae, corn earworms, hornworms, various insect eggs, leafhoppers, whiteflies
Long-legged flies	Adults and larvae prey on aphids, spider mites, thrips
Parasitic wasps	Aphids, asparagus beetles, cabbage loopers and worms, carrot rust flies, Colorado potato beetles, corn worms, diamondback moths, flea beetles, hornworms, leafminers, root maggots, squash vine borers, stink bugs, thrips, whiteflies
Praying mantids	Aphids, asparagus beetles, Colorado potato beetles, earwigs, grasshoppers, leafhopper, squash bugs, stink bugs
Robber flies	Aphids, Colorado potato beetles, grasshoppers, leafhoppers
Rove beetles	Carrot rust flies, caterpillars, root maggots, slugs, spider mites
Snakeflies	Aphids, various insect eggs, mites
Spiders	Aphids, asparagus beetles, cabbage worms, Colorado potato beetles, corn earworms, cutworms, diamondback moths, leafhoppers, leafminers, pillbugs and sowbugs, squash bugs, stink bugs

Eliminate the Use of Pesticides

- ❖ Why? They kill both the bad bugs AND the good bugs that would have controlled them for you
- ❖ Insects become resistant to the sprays, which makes them a nightmare to control (i.e., Colorado potato beetles, spider mites)
- ❖ They are hazardous to handle
- ❖ Who wants that stuff on their food?



Create Habitat for Beneficials

- ❖ Diverse habitat of flowers, shrubs, trees, native grasses
- ❖ Flowers with different types of flower heads to accommodate the insects' mouthparts, and provide nectar and pollen (*note pollinator garden pictured above*)
- ❖ Leave the leaf litter under shrubs
- ❖ Plant cover crops in idle vegetable beds
- ❖ Water feature for dragonflies and damselflies
- ❖ Rocks or logs for beetles to hide underneath

Interplanting

- ❖ Plant herbs and flowers with your veggies to attract more beneficials
- ❖ Examples: Nasturtiums, marigolds, chives, sunflowers, zinnias

Build Your Own Insect Hotel

- ❖ This fun project is both educational and fascinating
- ❖ Purpose: To provide shelter for hibernation and for laying eggs
- ❖ Which bugs will it attract?
 - Beetles, lacewings, ladybugs, moths, solitary bees (carpenter, digger, mason and sweat)
- ❖ There are only two rules for an insect hotel
 - Cover it with a roof to keep rain and snow off the materials and inhabitants
 - The front of the hotel should face south or east for maximum morning light
- ❖ Be creative! Do a web search to get plenty of inspiration

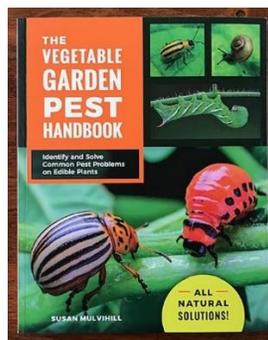


Natural Materials For Your Insect Hotel

Bamboo tubes	Evergreen branches	Pinecones
Branches	Hollow plant stems	Reeds or straws
Burlap	Logs drilled with holes	Roofing tiles
Cardboard	Masonry bricks with holes	Straw
Clay pots	Moss	Tree bark
Driftwood	Pine needles	Wooden blocks drilled with holes

The Vegetable Garden Pest Handbook

Cool Springs Press, 2021



Your complete, easy-to-use guide to the most commonly-encountered vegetable garden pests! Learn about their life cycles, what they look like (over 200 photos!), which crops they bother, what their damage looks like, and choose organic products and strategies to control them. Discover which bugs are beneficial, which pests they prey upon, and how to attract more of these good guys to your garden. Pick helpful do-it-yourself projects to make traps, barriers, and even an insect hotel to attract the good bugs!

Get your signed copy after my talk or send me an email (Susan@SusansintheGarden.com)!

Susan Mulvihill is the longtime Sunday garden columnist for The Spokesman-Review newspaper in Spokane, Wash. She is co-author of Northwest Gardener's Handbook and has been a Spokane County Master Gardener for 20 years. Her YouTube channel has over 400 videos on a wide range of gardening topics. Susan's goals are to get everyone to grow a vegetable garden and to use organic methods.

Connect with Susan!

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