

Good Bugs for the garden

Attracting POLINATORS

Pollinators play an essential role in our ecosystem and in the habitat of your backyard garden. A pollinator can be defined as an insect or animal that transfers pollen from one part of the flower to another or from flowers on one plant to flowers on another plant. Probably the most popular pollinator is the honeybee.

M

Did You Know there are such things as solitary, non-aggressive bees? These bees are called Mason Bees and are pollinating powerhouses!



Available Seasonally

Green Acres offers a complete line of Mason Bees and bee supplies like houses and nesting materials.

B

Female Mason Bees are master pollinators. It takes only 1 foraging Mason Bee to do the same work as 100 honeybees! (Ratio of 1:100)

Pollination is essential to continue the lifecycle of flowering plants including edibles.

If you are considering Mason Bees in your home garden remember that they need a steady supply of flowers to gather nectar and pollen. When planning your garden, plant for successive blooming so that there is a constant supply of blooms for the pollinators to feed on. Any garden can be made friendlier to pollinators and just takes a few simple steps.

Plants that Attract Pollinators:



GAILLARDIA



RUDBECKIA



CALIFORNIA POPPY



CALIFORNIA HOLLY



WESTERN REDBUD

Beneficial INSECTS

Why attract beneficials? It is the natural way to control pests. Let's say there is an infestation of aphids on your tomatoes this year. Many beneficial insects LOVE to eat aphids! Attracting beneficials is nature's way of pest control without pesticides.

The insects that prey on pest insects and are known as "beneficials" or good bugs.

Lady beetles and mantids are perhaps best known, but other beneficial predators are lacewings, ground beetles, syrphid flies and hunting wasps.



Many of these "good bugs" can be encouraged to appear in your garden this season by integrating plants that attract beneficial insects. It is important to mix as many types as possible, as the wider range of food and shelter you provide the beneficials, the more you will attract and the more likely they are to stay.

Plants that Attract Beneficial Insects:



SWEET ALYSSUM



YARROW



CEANOTHUS



COREOPSIS



COSMOS