

Make friends with some garden bugs!



I'm reposting this short article in homage to the little Praying Mantis found last week on the chives here. The more one gardens, the more one can start to appreciate some of the insects that come and visit the garden. Of course, you need the bumble bees, honeybees, hornets, flies, etc. for pollinating many plants. But did you know the following varieties of insect are actually good for your garden and can help keep the bad guys away?

Beneficial insects include:

Ladybugs - eat mealy bugs, aphids, scale bugs, thrips, etc.

Praying Mantis - eat just about any other bug, so you don't want too many

Lacewing Larvae - they will rid the plants of aphids

Assassin Bug - will eat beetles, caterpillars

Hover Flies Larvae - also called Syrphid Flies are striped like bees. The larvae love aphids

Ground Beetle Larvae - live in soil and dine on cutworms, slugs, root maggots. The adults often look metallic.

Predatory Stink Bugs - eat grubs, caterpillars, larvae. Some types of stink bugs are pests.

Damsel Bug - like a smaller Assassin Bug, they eat aphids, caterpillars, leaf hoppers, thrips

Minute Pirate Bugs - really small black bugs with white "v" on their backs. They eat aphids, mites, thrips, etc.

You can check out <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/graphics/photos/insectimages.new.htm> or <http://www.insectimages.org/> to identify these insects.

<http://mycitygarden.net/>