





A small illustration of a ladybug with black spots on its back, positioned to the left of the letter 'A'.

Ladybug

Ladybugs, or *Coccinellidae*, are cute as a button and their likeness is used on clothes, books, cartoons and movies.

It's probably the most popular of insects. Who doesn't love them? Well, plant-destroying aphids for one!

There are over **6000 species** of ladybugs, forming a global battalion against mildew, aphids, and mealy worms. Ladybugs are even credited as saving the entire citrus industry of California. You won't find a better bug to invite into your garden!

A small illustration of a praying mantis, positioned to the left of the letter 'B'.

Praying Mantis

The praying mantis, or *Mantidae*, is one of the most recognizable insects in the world. This species is considered to be a perfect hunter, gobbling up *all* varieties of garden pests in its path, putting it at the top of the garden insect food chain. The only concern is that the praying mantis has no regard for the health for your garden's other beneficial bugs, and will devour them as well. Regardless, this insect helps maintain the ecological balance required for sustainable and successful gardening.

Fun Fact: The praying mantis can swivel its head nearly 360 degrees and because of its pseudo-pupils it appears to make eye contact with you. Perhaps it can?

A small illustration of a bee, positioned to the left of the letter 'C'.

Bees

Bees, or *Anthophila*, are probably the most commonly known beneficial bugs, given their capacity for pollinating flora and vegetable based plants. Bees are primary pollinators of *entomophilous plants* – those that are pollinated by insects (versus wind pollination). Approximately 30% of the world's edible crops depend upon bee pollination. This indicates a direct correlation between their health and our own. When it comes to your gardening project, bees are an essential part of the eco-system.

A small illustration of a butterfly, positioned to the left of the letter 'D'.

Butterflies

Butterflies are attracted to bright flowers and need to feed on nectar. When they do this their bodies collect pollen and carry it to other plants. This helps fruits, vegetables and flowers to produce new seeds. The majority of plants need pollinators like bees and butterflies to reproduce. A garden that attracts butterflies will also bring native bees and birds. All play a role in increasing *biodiversity* – the variety of plants, animals and micro-organisms in their ecosystems.



Dragonfly

Dragonflies, or *Anisoptera*, are in contention for the ladybugs' title when it comes adored insects. We are obsessed with this colorful and plane-like species.

In addition to their aesthetic beauty, dragonflies serve your garden well as a predator of aphids, flies, midges, mosquitoes, and will even help you manage your wasp population should it get out of control (sorry yellow jackets).



Ground Beetles

Not as pretty as some of the other bugs, the ground beetle, or *Carabidae*, is no less effective in the garden.

As per their name, this species' predatory work takes place down below in the soil. Ground beetles gobble up slugs, snails, cabbage maggots, and other creepy crawly pests that are known to ravage your garden. This beneficial bug also enjoys feasting on weed seeds which further protects your crops!



Lacewings

Lacewings, or *Neuroptera*, consume a disproportionate number of aphids, caterpillars, mealybugs, scales, thrips, and whiteflies. What makes lacewings so unique is that even their larvae serves as an effective predator, devouring hundreds of aphids before pupating.



Spined Soldier Bug

Another soldier in the war against garden pests, the *Podisus maculiventris*, is often mistaken as a "stink bug", their odorous cousin. Distinguished by its pointed shoulders, it uses its sharp proboscis to attack unwitting cabbage loopers, moths, army worms, caterpillars, flea beetles and potato bugs. One of the great things about the spined soldier beetle is that even when your garden is free of its favorite delicacies the insect feasts on plant sap, without ever harming the plant itself!