



Manage Pests with the Garden Good Guys

Beneficial insects, natural enemies and good bugs are descriptive names for the predators, parasites or disease producing organisms that help control pests by killing them, decreasing their ability to reproduce or reducing their numbers. Encouraging these good guys to come and stay in your garden is easy – mostly, they just need food, water and shelter. Here are some simple steps:

- **Provide food** – plant sequentially flowering, diverse species of plants that provide nectar and pollen
- **Provide water** - any small, shallow container will work with some small sticks or rocks, as a place for the insects to perch; change the water every 2 - 3 days to keep it fresh and discourage mosquitoes from breeding
- **Provide shelter** where insects can find protection from disturbances; cover crops and perennial flower beds near vegetable gardens can provide excellent shelter
- **Tolerate low populations of plant-feeding insects and mites** to ensure that food is available to the beneficials
- **Reduce dust** – it can interfere with natural enemies and result in outbreaks of pests



*From left, syrphid fly, soldier beetle, assassin bug, convergent lady beetle larvae, green lacewing larvae
Photos courtesy of UC IPM website*

Early blooming



Basket of Gold –
Aurinia saxatilis



Creeping thyme –
Thymus serpyllum



Sweet alyssum –
Lobularia maritima



Carpet bugleweed –
Ajuga reptans

Midseason blooming



Common yarrow –
Achillea filipendulina



Spike speedwell –
Veronica spicata



Cilantro (Coriander) –
Coriandrum sativum



English lavender –
Lavandula angustifolia

Late blooming



Fernleaf yarrow –
Achillea millefolium



Lavender globe lily –
Allium tanguticum



Dill –
Anethum graveolens



Fennel –
Foeniculum vulgare

Late blooming



Sea lavender –
Limonium latifolium



Wild bergamot –
Monarda fistulosa



European goldenrod –
Solidago virgaurea

