

BENEFICIAL INSECT PLANTS

The beneficial insect plants we offer are long-lasting and provide food, enhanced habitat, and overwintering sites for natural enemies of many agricultural pests. Once established, these plants demand minimal, if any, care and can deliver years of benefit.

Beneficial insect plants can thrive in noncrop areas such as field margins, hedgerows, easements, roadsides, and wildlands near cropland and refuges within cropland. Beneficial insect plants include trees, shrubs, groundcovers and grasses. Insectary plantings can also be designed to attract other desirable wildlife, help suppress weeds, increase biodiversity, improve esthetics while enhancing biological control of insects and other pests.

Designing a beneficial insect planting entails providing beneficial insects with a year-round habitat including food (pollen, nectar, and sometimes prey) and overwintering sites, even when pest populations are low. Various combinations of plants attract beneficials by providing flowers throughout the year (see the accompanying chart). The best mix of insectary plants for enhancing control of specific pests depends on the crops grown and times of greatest susceptibility. The plants we've listed include both California natives and non-natives. While many species are drought tolerant, supplemental watering can greatly enhance and extend flowering periods.

We'll be happy to answer your questions about using our plant materials to attract beneficial insects in your application. Supplemental literature is available and we can help you assess your site in terms of soil, exposure, water tolerance, etc.. New beneficial insect plant materials are being added regularly - ask us for an update.

SOME PEST AND BENEFICIAL INSECT ASSOCIATIONS

Beneficial Insect	Major Pests	Beneficial Insect Plants
Hoverflies	Aphids Mealybugs	<i>Achillea</i> sp. <i>Ceanothus</i> sp. <i>Asclepias fascicularis</i> <i>Eriogonum</i> sp. <i>Baccharis</i> sp. <i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>
Lady Beetles	Aphids Leafhoppers Scales Mites Mealybugs	<i>Achillea</i> sp. <i>Ceanothus</i> sp. <i>Asclepias fascicularis</i> <i>Atriplex</i> sp. <i>Rhamnus californica</i> native grasses <i>Salix</i> sp.
Minute Pirate Bug	Corn Earworm Whitefly Leafhoppers Mites	<i>Achillea</i> sp. <i>Baccharis</i> sp. <i>Eriogonum</i> sp.
Lacewings	Leafhoppers Mites Aphids Thrips Mealybugs Whitefly	<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i> <i>Quillaja saponaria</i> <i>Ceanothus</i> sp.
Parasitic & Predatory Wasps	Caterpillars Aphids Mealybugs Leafhoppers	<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i> <i>Eriogonum</i> sp. <i>Achillea</i> sp. <i>Myoporum</i> sp.
Tachinid Flies	Caterpillars Squash Bugs Stink Bugs	<i>Achillea</i> sp. <i>Eriogonum</i> sp. <i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i> <i>Myoporum</i> sp. <i>Rhamnus californica</i>
Bigeyed Bug	Mites Lygus Whitefly Caterpillars	<i>Polygonum</i> sp. native grasses

FLOWERING PERIODS OF SELECTED BENEFICIAL INSECT PLANTS

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
willow sp.												
ceanothus sp.												
mule fat												
yarrow sp.												
coffeeberry												
holly-leaf cherry												
soapbark tree												
buckwheat sp.												
elderberry sp.												
toyon												
creeping boobiolla												
narrowleaf milkweed												
coyote brush												