



GREEN LANDSCAPING IDEAS

INCREASE THE YIELD OF YOUR VEGETABLE GARDEN

By Jamie Kent



are the attractant so let them flower: sweet basil, oregano, lavender, rosemary, chives, spearmint and mountain mint, borage, and catmint.

Going Green in your garden this year can be fun and yield productive results.

Begin by incorporating plants that will attract pollinating and beneficial insects. Increased flower pollination rates typically result in more fruit production. Beneficial insects prey on other insect species that have become garden pests. Fewer pests translate into more productive garden plants.

There are four major groups of pollinating insects: bees and wasps; flies, butterflies and moths, and beetles. Bees are considered to be the most important group of pollinators. This is through their sheer numbers, as there are about 4,000 native bee species in North America.



Bees collect pollen to feed their young while flies, butterflies, moths and beetles are nectar feeders. Pollen transfer between like-flowers is performed most efficiently by bees through their active contact with pollen producing parts of the plant. Plants that are attractive to bees may also be utilized by the other pollinators. The addition of herbs to a vegetable garden is a great way to draw in pollinators. The flowers of herbs

Beneficial insects can be easily drawn to the garden area by installing some of their preferred plants. Some of the good bugs to attract are: ladybugs that feed on aphids, Lacewing-aphids and scale, parasitic mini wasps-tomato hornworm, Tachinid flies – caterpillar pests. Let herbs go to flower and the beneficial insects will come. Consider dill, parsley, thyme, bronze fennel, lemon balm, and sage. Perennials such as yarrow, speedwell veronica and alyssum are big draws too. Perennial flowers such as aster, bee balm, coneflower, blazing star, goldenrod, milkweed and ironweed can be planted in a sunny location near the veggie area.

Limit pesticide (organic or synthetic) usage as it can adversely affect the very insects you are hoping to attract. If you must treat your plants, spot treat only and apply near sundown to limit exposure. In some situations it may be helpful to use a combination of control techniques to reduce insect pest populations and encourage productive growth.



'Just living is not enough,' said the butterfly. 'One must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower.' --

Gardening quote by Hans Christian Anderson